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Japan

Government To Disburse $9 Billion to GCC

OW1103120291 Tokyo KYODO in English 1151 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 11 KYODO—Japan will disburse 9 billion dollars to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) later this week as part of its contribution to the U.S.-led multinational forces, Foreign Ministry sources said Monday.

The disbursement will be made official after diplomatic documents are exchanged with the GCC, they said.

Britain, France, Pakistan, and Bangladesh as well as the United States have urged Japan to distribute the aid money promptly.

Japan and the GCC, which groups Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, and Oman, will later decide how to divide the money among nations which joined the multinational forces, the sources said.

$100 Million Loan to Syria Announced

OW1103115191 Tokyo KYODO in English 1052 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 11 KYODO—Japan on Monday pledged up to 100 million dollars in loan to Syria to cover economic damage it suffered during the Persian Gulf crisis, the Foreign Ministry said.

The aid will be extended in the form of a commodity loan mainly to ease burdens stemming from an influx of war evacuees.

The loan will carry a 2.9 percent annual interest rate and will be repayable in 25 years.

The aid to Syria, which joined the U.S.-led military coalition and U.N. economic sanctions against Iraq, follows the 2 billion dollars in economic assistance previously pledged to Egypt, Turkey, and Jordan.

The official signing is to take place sometime next month, ministry sources said.

Additional aid of some 500 million dollars to Syria will mainly be used to build a thermal electric power plant now in the planning stages, the sources said.

Japan suspended official loans to Damascus in fiscal 1987 after Syria fell behind in its loan repayments.

Ruling Party Cancels Mission to Middle East

OW0903150591 Tokyo KYODO in English 1451 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 9 KYODO—The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) decided Saturday to cancel the dispatch of a party mission to the Middle East "for the time being" because the LDP failed to make arrangements for the trip, party officials said. The decision to cancel the mission, to have been headed by party Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa, was made in a meeting between Ozawa, other party executives and senior Foreign Ministry officials at party headquarters.

Ozawa had planned to leave Tokyo Saturday for Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to exchange views with Arab leaders and to explore ways for Japan to assist with the reconstruction of the Persian Gulf region following the end of the war. However, it become apparent the same day that the mission could not make the trip, because the party failed to secure a plane to carry the mission from Saudi Arabia to Kuwait.

Even if the trip had taken place, it had not been expected to achieve much because of poor preparations on the Japanese side, party sources said.

Senior LDP Official Leaves for Cairo

OW1103092791 Tokyo KYODO in English 0847 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 11 KYODO—Toshio Yamaguchi, a senior member of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, left here for Cairo Monday via Moscow for a tour of Middle East nations.

The former labor minister will visit Saudi Arabia and possibly Syria and Kuwait to explain why a planned ruling party mission to the region was canceled.

The mission headed by party Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa was aimed at exchanging views with Mideast leaders on Japanese assistance in reconstruction efforts following the Persian Gulf war.

Party sources said the mission was suspended Saturday due to the inability to secure transportation for its members.

Physicians Group To Provide Iraq Medical Aid

OW0903085091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0835 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Hiroshima, March 9 KYODO—The Japanese chapter of an international antinuclear organization of doctors said Saturday it will embark on medical relief activities for people in Persian Gulf nations, many of whom are in urgent need of medical treatments.

Officials of the Hiroshima-based branch of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) said they plan to send medical supplies to Iraq as a joint project with other IPPNW chapters in the United States, Germany, and Sweden.

Those supplies will be delivered through Jordan's IPPNW branch, which reports that Iraq is suffering from shortages of medical supplies such as anesthetics, materials for suture, antibiotics, and water purification devices.

The officials said Jordan also asked Japan to send about 100 million yen's worth of emergency medical supplies to Iraq, which they said will be used only in the early stage of medical treatments.

The Japanese branch said it also planning to provide similar medical aid to Kuwait as soon as communications services in the war- ravaged nation are restored.

Foreign Minister To Visit to U.S. in Mar

OW1103113291 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Nakayama will visit Washington and New York for several days beginning 20 March for talks with Secretary of State Baker, Secretary of Defense Cheney, and Congressional leaders on postwar reconstruction in the Gulf region and other issues. At the talks, Foreign Minister Nakayama plans to consult with the United States on the question of ensuring security in the Middle East now that the Gulf war is over, Japan's economic cooperation with postwar reconstruction in the region, and the timing for President Bush's visit to Japan, which had been postponed from an earlier date.

Kaifu Worried Over U.S. Sentiment, Plans Visit

OW0903085791 Tokyo KYODO in English 0844 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 9 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu hopes to visit the United States at an early date to discuss with U.S. leaders Japan's cooperation for postwar reconstruction of the Middle East and bilateral economic issues, government sources said Saturday.

The sources said the Foreign Ministry is studying the possibility and timing of Kaifu's trip, including the holiday period in early May.

Kaifu's journey to Washington emerged as a visit to Japan by U.S. President George Bush is not likely to take place before fall, the sources said.

Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama is expected to lay the groundwork for Kaifu's trip during his visit to Washington later this month, they said.

The sources said Kaifu is concerned about worsening American sentiment toward Japan over Tokyo's allgedly lukewarm approach to supporting the U.S.-led multinational forces in the Persian Gulf war.

He also intends to talk over pending economic problems, including the mounting pressure on Japan to open its rice market under the Uruguay Round of multinational trade talks.

But the sources said Kaifu still gives priority to his visit to Southeast Asia, which was canceled because of the outbreak of the Gulf war in January.

He also plans to visit China, possibly in May, to improve bilateral relations which cooled in the wake of the military crackdown of prodemocracy demonstrations in Beijing in June 1989.

Sakamoto: U.S. Friendship Intact Despite Gulf

OW1103071391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0600 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 11 (KYODO)—Japan's top government spokesman said Monday he expects souring of American public opinion toward Japan following the Persian Gulf war to be short-lived, and said that overall relations remain friendly.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto said he was not overly concerned about a U.S. poll showing growing distrust of Japan in the aftermath of the Gulf conflict, to which Japan committed money but no troops.

"Basically, Japan-U.S. friendly relations are on solid ground," Sakamoto told reporters. "Over the long term, I think we have trust."

A WASHINGTON POST/ABC News poll published Sunday grouped Japan alongside the war's other "losers" in the eyes of American public, such as Iran and the Palestinians.

Of the 1,215 adults interviewed by telephone nationwide, 30 percent said they had lost respect for Japan, compared with 19 percent whose respect had increased. Half of respondents said their opinion of Japan was not changed by the conflict.

Germany, which also did not provide combat troops, and pledged a contribution of 6.57 billion dollars toward the costs of the coalition compared with Japan's 11 billion dollars, fared somewhat better in the poll.

Those who gained respect for Germany totaled 25 percent, outnumbering the 22 percent who said their respect had diminished, with 51 percent saying their opinion of Germany was unchanged. The margin of error for the poll, conducted between March 1 and 4, is plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Sakamoto said that the Japan-U.S. relationship is bound to have its ups and downs due to differences of view, but that overall ties should not be judged solely by the latest development.

"There are some (in the U.S.) who believe that Japan did what it could," he added.

Soviet Deputy Premier Arrives for Seminar

OW1003120491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1148 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 10 KYODO—Soviet Deputy Prime Minister Nikolay Laverov arrived in Tokyo on Sunday for an eight-day visit to Japan to attend a science seminar.

Laverov will meet International Trade and Industry Minister Eiichi Nakao on Monday.

On Tuesday, he will attend the opening ceremony of the three-day Soviet science and technology seminar at the sunshine city building in Tokyo.

Supports Technological Cooperation

OW1103071491 Tokyo KYODO in English 0633 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 11 KYODO—Visiting Soviet Deputy Prime Minister Nikolay Laverov on Monday called on the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) to help expand the technological cooperation between Japan and the Soviet Union, MITI officials said.

Laverov, who came to Japan to attend a seminar on Soviets' high technology sponsored by the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), visited MITI head Eiichi Nakao to rally the ministry's support to the Soviet efforts to boost bilateral technological cooperation and to attract Japanese investments, the officials said.

He specifically cited a project of geological research in Lake Baykal to seek scientific information about climate changes, they said.

The Soviet official in chagre of science and technology called for Tokyo's assistance in establishing an international center of cooperation for the project.

Laverov also stressed that Soviet companies have been freed from governmental control, and asked the minister to help convince Japanese companies that Soviet firms can be reliable business partners.

Soviet enterprises became independent of the central government in terms of business management in January, and the government will not intervene in their business without legal justification, he said.

Nakao said he hopes the scheduled visit of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in mid-April will push forward the bilateral ties dramatically.

The Japanese minister emphasized the importance of the Soviet Union's adhering to the perestroyka, or restructuring policy for broadening the scope of ties between Tokyo and Moscow, the officials said.

Soviet Return of 2 Islands Not To Improve Ties

OW0903080291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0747 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 9 KYODO—Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev may propose the return of two of four Soviet-held north Pacific islands to Japan when he visits here in April, according to speculations in Tokyo.

Sources at the Foreign Ministry said there is little possibility Moscow will offer a package return of all four disputed islands because Gorbachev's power base has weakened as a result of the impasse in his perestroyka reform policy.

They said the Soviet return of two islands, Habomai and Shikotan, will not help improve overall bilateral relations between Tokyo and Moscow.

If in the future Gorbachev pledges the reversion of the two other larger islands, Kunashiri and Etorofu, Japan will respond to Soviet requests for expansion of Japanese economic assistance, the sources said.

The Soviet Union has held the four islands, situated east of Hokkaido, since the end of World War II. Japan demands the return of all four to its rule as a prerequisite for concluding a peace treaty normalizing relations between the two nations.

Moscow pledged to return Habomai and Shikotan to Japan in a joint declaration issued in 1956, ending a technical state of war between the two countries.

Soviet Vice President Gennadiy Yanayev, who serves as chairman of a preparation committee for Gorbachev's Tokyo visit, called for Moscow to implement the joint statement, while a conservative military leader echoed the idea in a recent interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE.

A senior Foreign Ministry official said Gorbachev has not yet made a decision on the territorial issue and his aides have released speculative "balloons" to see Japanese reaction.

Government sources said Gorbachev apparently aims to assess Japan's response, including its economic aid to Moscow, during his meeting with Ichiro Ozawa, secretary general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, who is scheduled to visit Moscow later this month.

The sources said there is a possibility Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksander Bessmertnykh may broach the territorial issue during meetings with Japanese leaders during a visit to Tokyo this month to prepare for Gorbachev's trip.

Soviet Union Agrees on Salmon Catch Quota

OW0803183491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1456 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 8 KYODO—Japan and the Soviet Union agreed Friday to set Japan's salmon catch quota in the northwestern Pacific this year at 9,000 tons, down from last year's 11,000 tons, Fisheries Agency officials said.

It was also agreed that Japan will pay 2,835 million yen in "fishery cooperation fees" to the Soviets in return for the fishing rights, the officials said.

The accords came at bilateral fishery talks which started in Moscow on Monday last week.

The Soviets have said that they will work for a complete ban on salmon fishing in international waters from 1992 to protect salmon resources originating in the Soviet Union.

Nakayama Visit To PRC Postponed Until Apr

OW0903033391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0318 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 9 (KYODO)—Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama has decided to postpone his planned visit to China in March to April because of parliamentary and diplomatic schedules, ministry sources said Saturday.

Nakayama hopes to visit China in early April to exchange views on the situation in the Asia-Pacific region with Chinese leaders before Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev makes his first official visit to Japan from April 16.

But Nakayama's visit to China may be delayed to late April if Diet business is busy in early April, the sources said.

Nakayama originally planned to visit China around March 20 but was forced to change the schedule to visit the United States in March and receive Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh in late March, they said.

Watanabe Briefs Kaifu on PRC, Asian Visits

OW1103114691 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Text] Michio Watanabe, former chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party's Policy Affairs Research Council, held a meeting this afternoon with Prime Minister Kaifu and reported that most of Asian countries understood the concept of dispatching Self-Defense Forces personnel to assist in the United Nations' peacekeeping activities. He also reported, however, that China was extremely cautious about this matter.

Watanabe reported that the Chinese side indicated its intention to welcome Prime Minister Kaifu's plan to visit China.

In response, Prime Minister Kaifu said that he will study the question of just when he will be able to make such a visit.

Kaifu Remarks on ASEAN Visits

OW1103134891 Tokyo KYODO in English 1325 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 11 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu said Monday he wants to visit member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as soon as possible.

Kaifu canceled a visit to Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Brunei planned in early January because of developments in the Persian Gulf crisis prior to the U.N.-imposed deadline for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.

Kaifu made the remark to reporters after a meeting with former Finance Minister Michio Watanabe, who returned home Saturday from a three-nation Asian tour.

Watanabe briefed Kaifu on his visit to Indonesia, the Philippines, and China and urged him to visit China as well as ASEAN nations around late April and early May, government officials said.

In Bali, Indonesia, Watanabe attended an international seminar on regional and world economic issues and talked with Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, and Indonesian President Suharto.

He also met Philippine President Corazon Aquino in Manila and Chinese Premier Li Peng in Beijing.

Watanabe told Kaifu that leaders of the ASEAN nations have expressed understanding about the participation of Japanese Self- Defense Forces (SDF) personnel in U.N. peacekeeping operations.

Watanabe added, however, that Chinese leaders showed a cautious attitude toward the overseas dispatch of SDF members to join in U.N. peacekeeping activities, according to the officials.

In a related development, a senior government official cited the ASEAN nations and China as possible countries Kaifu will visit between late April and early May.

DPRK Group Arrives for Talks on Normalization

OW1003081791 Tokyo KYODO in English 0719 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 10 KYODO—An official North Korean delegation arrived in Tokyo on Sunday for the second round of talks on normalizing diplomatic ties between Japan and North Korea.

The delegation, which arrived via Beijing, is the first ever from the North Korean Government to visit Japan.

The 15-member delegation, led by Vice Foreign Minister Chon In-chol, was met at Narita Airport by chief Japanese negotiator Noboru Nakahira.

The normalization talks will be held Monday and Tuesday at the Foreign Ministry. The delegation will also meet Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama and Vice Foreign Minister Takakazu Kuriyama during its week-long stay in Japan.

The first round of talks was held in Pyongyang on January 30 and 31.

North Korea is expected to repeat its demand for compensation for Japan's 1910-45 colonial rule of the Korean peninsula as well as for postwar "losses," while Japan will urge North Korea to allow international inspection of its nuclear facilities before normalizing bilateral relations.

The two countries are expected to hold their third round of talks in Beijing in May, Japanese sources said.

Vice Foreign Minister, Nakayama Meet

OW1103081191 Tokyo KYODO in English 0746 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 11 KYODO—Japan and North Korea opened their second round of normalization talks on Monday in disagreement over Pyongyang's administrative jurisdiction and their historical interpretations of Japan's colonization of the Korean peninsula.

The chief North Korean delegate, Vice Foreign Minister Chon In-chol, argued that Japan forcibly imposed the 1910 treaty establishing colonial rule over Korea, a Japanese Foreign Ministry official said.

Chon said the Korean emperor clearly agreed to the pact only because of the threat of military force.

Noboru Nakahira, the veteran diplomat leading Japan's delegation, countered during the two-hour morning session that the treaty was valid and accepted internationally at the time.

Nakahira also sought a North Korean acknowledgement that the Pyongyang Government rules only the northern half of the peninsula, but Chon stuck to the North Korean position that Pyongyang is the only legitimate government on the peninsula.

While Monday's morning session opened with a rehash of the discussions at the first round—January 30 and 31 in Pyongyang—on these historical issues, Japanese Foreign Ministry officials said, they called the atmosphere friendly.

Nakahira hailed the recent increase of exchanges between the two countries, such as the visit to Japan last month of ruling Korea Workers Party's Secretary Kim Yong-sun.

The Japanese delegation sees the talks as having two main goals: correcting "past irregularities" and contributing to greater stability in East Asia.

Nakahira stressed that Japan's basic Korea policy is to strengthen relations with Seoul, and that the talks with Pyongyang cannot be allowed to damage those ties.

Nakahira asked the North Koreans to resume the inter-Korean prime ministerial talks. Pyongyang called off the fourth round, which had been scheduled for late February, to protest the U.S.-South Korean "Team Spirit" annual joint military exercise.

Earlier Monday morning, Chon met with Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama.

Nakayama asked North Korea to allow the Japanese women who go to North Korea with their Korean husbands in the 1960s to write and visit their families in Japan.

Chon said he understands the Japanese position and promised to convey Nakayama's message to Pyongyang.

Nakayama also pressed the North Koreans to accept international inspection of their nuclear facilities to ensure they are used for peaceful purposes.

North Korea insists that it has no plans to develop nuclear weapons, and calls the U.S. nuclear weapons it says are stationed in South Korea a greater threat to peace.

Japan, which ruled the Korean Peninsula as a colony from 1910-1945, established diplomatic ties with South Korea in 1965, providing 500 million dollars in economic assistance as compensation for its colonial rule.

U.S. Spurs OECD To Draft Antitrust Guideline

OW0903084491 Tokyo KYODO in English 0816 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 9 KYODO—The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has started work on uniform international guidelines on the application of antitrust laws beyond a country's borders to prevent misuse of such laws, a Japanese Government source said Saturday.

The move came in response to requests from Japan and the European Community (EC), which charge that the United States is considering unilateral application of its antitrust laws abroad in retaliation for allegedly unfair business practices or government restrictions in other nations, the source said.

"Such unilateral application (of the law) could dampen the free trade system and threaten state sovereignty," the source said.

The Paris-based body of industrialized nations is expected to work out the guidelines by June, when a ministerial meeting is scheduled, he said.

The U.S. Justice Department is reportedly working on guidelines to use American anti-trust laws to make U.S. exports more competitive in the world market.

Automatic Shutdown at Nuclear Fuel Plant

OW0903073091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0719 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Mito, March 9 KYODO—Rising temperature automatically shut down a container dissolving enriched uranium at Japan's sole nuclear fuel reprocessing plant at Tokai Friday but no radioactive material was leaked into the air, officials at the facility reported Saturday.

The incident at the Nuclear Reactor and Nuclear Fuel Development Corp. (Donen) Tokai Works in Tokai village led the plant to halt operations of two other concrete-reinforced dissolvers in the plant for safety precautions, officials said. The facility is located on the Pacific coast about 100 kilometers north of Tokyo.

Donen officials said they are investigating the cause of the trouble and it would take several days to complete the work.

It was the first automatic shutdown of the nuclear fuel dissolver at the plant since the facility went into operation in 1977, the officials said.

A preliminary report released by Donen officials said air pressure in one of the three cylindrical-shaped tanks rose suddenly at around 5:58 P.M. Friday, automatically stopping its operation.

The tanks, measuring 3 by 6 meters, are shielded with concrete walls 1.5 meters thick.

No radioactivity leakage was reported or pollution caused to the surrounding environment, Donen officials said.

Barometric reading inside the dissolver involved in the automatic shutdown suddenly rose to 1.18 atmospheres from the normal pressure of below 1 atmosphere, apparently because of an abrupt increase in steam and gas in the tank, they said.

The vessels are used to separate uranium and plutonium from spent nuclear fuel. They are heated from outside to raise the temperature inside to 105 degrees Celsius to activate the chemical reaction necessary for the dissolution of the spent nuclear fuel.

Donen officials said the tanks' operations were usually shut down manually when high air pressure was noticed, but the rise of pressure in the dissolver that stopped automatically Friday was too quick for manual control.

North Korea

U.S. Aerial Exercises in South Reported

Exercise Held on 7 Mar

SK0903045591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0427 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 9 (KCNA)—Three rounds of war exercises staged in the skies above Tokjok Islet, Kongju, Yechon and Kunwi of South Korea involved A-10, F-16 and F-15 fighter-bombers and assault planes from the U.S. mainland and the Misawa and Kadena bases in Japan and F-16 and F-4 fighter-bombers of the U.S. Airforce present in South Korea and the puppet airforce, more than 130 in all, according to military sources.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets on the same day staged a ground offensive rehearsal against the North in Uijongbu and Chunchon areas with a massive mobilisation of mechanised and infantry units, supported by scores of F-16, A-10, OA-10 and other fighter-bombers, assault planes and observation planes of the U.S. Airforce.

And the U.S. imperialists continuously brought formations of C-130 and C-141 transport planes loaded with huge armed forces and combat equipment for the "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises from the U.S. mainland and Pacific bases to the operational zones of South Korea.

On the same day, they repeatedly let a U-2 high-altitude reconnaissance plane make a shuttle flight from east to west above the Military Demarcation Line for an intensive espionage on the targets in the depths and wide areas of our side.

A total of over 510 planes participated in the aerial war exercises which were staged under various names in the skies over South Korea on March 7.

Exercise Held on 8 Mar

SK1003085891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0831 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 10 (KCNA)—Scores of nuclear-capable "F-16" and "F-15" fighter-bombers brought from bases in Japan and the Pacific were mobilized in joint nuclear air strike exercises simulating an attack on the North which were staged by the U.S. Pacific Airforce Command in the skies above Oeyon Islet and Sosan, South Korea, on March 8, according to military sources.

On the same day, the U.S. imperialists brought from U.S. mainland and Hawaii and Pacific bases formations of transport planes and fleets of transport ships loaded with tens of thousands of aggression troops and huge combat equipment for the "Team Spirit 91" war rehearsal to airfields and ports of South Korea and deployed them in operational zones.

On the same day they brought from bases in the U.S. mainland and Pacific dozens of fighter-bombers, assault planes, pursuit-assault planes, electronic jamming planes, transport planes and refuelling tankers including "F-16," "EA-6," "C-130," "KC-10" and "KC-135" in Osan and Kunsan airfields and deployed groups of guided-missile cruisers, guided-missile destroyers, escort craft, submarines and landing craft in Chinhae and other ports and put them in a posture of action with the actual stage of the "Team Spirit 91" war exercises at hand.

This clearly shows how desperately the U.S. imperialists are trying to massively reinforce their aggression forces and reduce the whole land of South Korea to a theatre of war with the approach of the full scale actual stage of the adventurous "Team Spirit 91" manoeuvres.

South Students Demonstrate at U.S. Embassy

SK0903141691 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1113 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] This news just came in. According to a radio report in South Korea, about 20 students who belong to the National Council of University Student Representatives [Chondaehyop] waged an anti-U.S. and antigovernment demonstration struggle in front of the U.S. Embassy, demanding an end to the criminal Team Spirit-91 joint military exercise which is designed for northward aggression.

In order to deliver the letter of protest—in the name of Chondaehyop—addressed to the U.S. President Bush and U.S. Ambassador Gregg in Seoul, the students rushed to Sejong-ro where the U.S. Embassy is located.

In the letter of protest, the students said that the U.S. troops and the ROK Army formulated an operation of simultaneous attack on the front and rear in the North by mobilizing nuclear-operated aircraft carriers and nuclear missiles, and that they are expanding preliminary exercises for a nuclear war. The students pointed out that they denounce the Team Spirit exercise which aggravates tension on the Korean peninsula, and leads to its permanent division.

In the letter of protest, the students accused the United States, which unhesitatingly started such an aggressive war as the Gulf war to seek its own interests, of now pouring cold water over our people's zeal for reunification with the Team Spirit exercise, in which nuclear weapons are mobilized. They strongly demanded that the Team Spirit exercise be immediately suspended.

The broadcast reported that as the students tried to deliver the letter of protest directly to the U.S. Embassy, the No Tae-u group, embarrassed by this, mobilized numerous riot police rascals and arraigned all of the students, thus committing a violent act.

No Tae-u's Speech at Navy Academy Assailed

SK0903111691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1030 GMT 9 Mar 91

["Outburst Revealing Vaulting Ambition To Invade North"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 9 (KCNA)—No Tae-u Friday showed up at a graduation ceremony of the puppet Navy Academy and hurled mud at the North, crying that "the way for the improvement of the North-South relations" would be paved and "the day of unification will be brought earlier" only when the military capabilities of the South are great, according to a radio report from Seoul.

He urged that the strategy and tactics and equipment of the puppet Navy should be modernized to cope with three-dimensional warfare.

This shows that No Tae-u shot off his mouth, reckless of the consequences, captive to wild ambition to invade the North.

Tensions between the North and the South are growing and a constant danger of war is hanging over the Korean peninsula, because of the arms buildup and war policy of the United States and the South Korean authorities.

No's argument that "the day of unification will be brought earlier" only when military capabilities are strengthened and modernized means that he is following the spectres of the successive rulers who met their destruction while raising a hue and cry over the "unification by prevailing over communism" and "march north to unify".

KPA Supreme Command Document Given Out at UN

SK0903103091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0959 GMT 9 Mar 91

["Communique of KPA Supreme Command Distributed as Official Document of U.N. Security Council"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 9 (KCNA)—The communique of the Supreme Command of the Korean People's Army [KPA] was distributed as an official document S-22281 of the United Nations Security Council on March 5.

The communique issued on February 27 said that in face of the grave situation in which a potential danger of a new war has been created in Korea owing to the reckless military provocations of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean rulers, the supreme commander of the Korean People's Army ordered the entire units of the three services of the Korean People's Army and the Korean People's Security Forces and all the members of the worker-peasant Red Guards and Young Red Guards to keep themselves in full combat preparedness with a high degree of revolutionary vigilance.

Daily 'Flails' South's Campaign for UN Entry

SK1103111491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1000 GMT 11 Mar 91

["NODONG SINMUN Flails South Korean Authorities' Campaign for Unilateral U.N. Membership"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 11 (KCNA)—We will never keep step with the No Tae-u group in their moves to perpetuate the division of the nation, whether it is the simultaneous entry or separate entry into the United Nations, declares NODONG SINMUN Monday.

Recalling that the South Korean "foreign minister" took a series of opportunities of revealing their intention to launch a full-dressed campaign for their criminal unilateral U.N. membership, prattling that it is non-productive to discuss the matter of U.N. membership any more in the North-South talks, the news analyst says:

In our divided country, the entry of the North and the South into the U.N. is the very serious internal matter of the nation which is directly connected with national reunification, a vital demand of the nation, and naturally it must be realized through national consensus.

So, we have maintained that it is most desirable for the North and the South to enter the U.N. with a single state name after the reunification of the country by means of confederation and, in case of entry before the reunification, they should share a single seat. From last year, we urgently raised the U.N. membership question at the North-South high-level talks and have made sincere efforts to resolve it through negotiation.

The South Korean authorities' unwillingness to discuss the matter of U.N. membership with us any more is little short of a declaration of division proclaiming the rupture of the dialogue with us, making their criminal unilateral entry into the U.N. a fait accompli.

At a time when the entire fellow countrymen are striving to put an end to the division of the country and achieve reunification, only the South Korean authorities are trying to legalize and fix the division of the country on the international scene through their unilateral entry into the U.N. It is an all-out challenge to the entire nation and a vicious act of treachery.

The South Korean authorities' unilateral entry into the U.N. will block the road of North-South dialogue and further aggravate the North-South relations, spelling renewed confrontation and a danger of war to the fellow countrymen. After all, it will bring heavy dark clouds over the horizon of national reunification.

If the No group forces its separate entry into the U.N. they will be branded for good as traitors to the nation, history and posterity like Yi Wan-yong, Song Pyong-chun and others who sold off the country in the early twentieth century and will face a stern judgment by history and nation.

UN Human Rights Delegate's Statement Assailed

SK0803154691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1511 GMT 8 Mar 91

["Brazen Balderdash of Human Rights Violator"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 8 (KCNA)—The U.S. delegate, at a U.N. Human Rights Commission meeting held in Geneva recently, spoke ill of our country over the "human rights problem", according to a report.

He uttered the blatant lie that the citizens are "almost deprived of basic human rights" in our country.

This is an intolerable, malicious challenge to our system, a genuine, man-centred socialist society.

It is well known a fact that the U.S. imperialists come out with the "human rights problem" as an important expedient in executing their counterrevolutionary strategy of "peaceful transition" intended to disorganize the socialist countries from within.

This time, too, the U.S. delegate took issue with our country, as well as China, Cuba and other countries that adhere to the socialist principle, over the "human rights".

This is an intolerable interference in the internal affairs of sovereign states.

The U.S. imperialists, under the cloak of "human rights", are openly perpetrating sabotages and subversive activities against those countries adhering to anti-imperialist independence, poking their noses into the internal affairs of sovereign states all over the world.

The United States where millions of beggars and paupers at the bottom of the social scale and millions of jobless people are deprived even of the vital rights is the "kingdom" of human rights violation.

'Imperialists' Policy of Strength' Criticized

SK0903105691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1015 GMT 9 Mar 91

["Invariable Policy of Strength of U.S. Imperialism"]

[Text] Pyongyang March 9 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists' policy of strength is an inevitable product of their brigandish nature to dominate and plunder other countyies. NODONG SINMUN today stresses this in an article headlined "Invariable Policy of Strength of U.S. Imperialism."

The author of the article notes the U.S. imperialists quite often vociferate about the "end of cold war" and the "advent of an era of peace" but they have not yet given up the anti-socialist policy of strength.

The article quotes the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song as saying:

"The U.S. imperialists who are constantly pursuing the wild design to dominate the world are massively building up the armaments, stepping up the production and deployment of nuclear weapons and scheming to expand the arms race even to the outer space by bringing forward the adventurous 'star wars' programme."

It further says:

The U.S. imperialists' strategy to dominate the world by strength is, in essence, an adventurous nuclear war strategy to bring under control the socialist countries by "nuclear predominance" and decide on the destiny of mankind.

They refuse to withdraw their aggression forces and nuclear weapons from all parts of the world. While withdrawing some secondary bases, setups and partially pulling out military personnel, they fill up the gap several times by increasing the efficiency of U.S. forces and deploying more modern weapons.

Crying for "establishment of a new world order" and "demonstration of world leadership capacity" they freely threaten other countries and start bloody wars on the pretext of deterring aggression. Their reckless policy of strength finds graphic expression in their policy toward Korea.

The "Team Spirit" joint military manoeuvres which are staged on the Korean peninsula every year are, to all intents and purposes, a test nuclear war and a preliminary war against the northern half of Korea.

Today a touch-and-go dangerous situation prevails on the Korean peninsula and dark clouds of a real nuclear war are hanging over the heads of our people.

All the facts fully show that there is no change in the U.S. imperialists' high-handed policy of strength and they stoop to any infamy for their brigandish interests.

Their wild ambition to dominate the world with strength stands no chance of realization.

The U.S. imperialists must stop the adventurous moves of aggression and war and give up their wrong policy of strength.

Chon In-chol Delegation's Japan Visit Reported

Delegation Departs 9 Mar

SK0903043391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0419 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 9 (KCNA)—A DPRK Government delegation headed by Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Chon In-chol left here this morning by plane to participate in the second inter-governmental full-dress talks for the establishment of diplomatic relations between the DPRK and Japan.

It was accompanied by suite members and reporters.

The delegation was seen off at the airport by Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Kim Chae-suk, and officials concerned.

The delegation is the first DPRK Government mission to pay an official visit to Japan.

The first round of full-dress talks was held in Pyongyang on January 30 and 31.

Delegation Arrives in Japan

SK1003081091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0759 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo March 10 (KCNA correspondent)—A government delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea led by Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Chon In-chol arrived here this afternoon for the second inter-governmental full-dress talks for the normalization of DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations.

It was accompanied by the suite and reporters.

Japanese Host Reception 10 Mar

SK1103060291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0509 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo March 10 (KCNA correspondent)—The Japanese Government delegation gave a reception at the new Otani Hotel in Tokyo this evening in honor of the delegation of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on a visit to Japan for the establishment of the DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations.

Invited to the reception were the members of the DPRK Government delegation headed by Chon In-chol, vice-minister of foreign affairs, and suite members and reporters accompanying the delegation.

Present there were head of the Japanese Government delegation Noboru Nakahira, specially appointed ambassador at the vice-minister level of the Foreign Ministry; Sakutaro Tanino, director of the Asian Department; and other officials concerned.

Speeches were made at the reception.

Noboru Nakahira stressed that the negotiation for the establishment of the Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations is a historic event opening a new page in the Japan-DPRK relations and it draws attention not only of Japan and the DPRK but also of the world.

Through the first round of the talks, he noted, the two sides could confirm the strong intention to rectify the past abnormal relations and establish new, constructive relations between Japan and the DPRK.

He expressed the hope that the two sides would open their hearts to have frank exchange of views so that the second round of the full-dress talks could be fruitful.

Saying that the delegation's arrival in Tokyo is the first official visit of the DPRK Government mission to Japan, Chon In-chol continued: The visit, along with the first official visit of the Japanese Government delegation to our republic in January last, has opened a new page of good neighbourhood and cooperation in the history of the DPRK-Japan relations.

We expect that our current visit will give us fresh knowledge of Tokyo and Japan and deepen our feelings of friendship with the Japanese people.

The Tokyo talks make the prospect of the talks for the establishment of diplomatic relations optimistic because it is to be held in a good atmosphere following the recent successful visit to Japan of a delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The reception proceeded in a friendly atmosphere.

Talks on 'Normalisation' Begin

SK1103050791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0400 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo March 11 (KCNA correspondent)—The second inter-governmental full-dress talks for the normalisation of the DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations opened here today. Present at the talks are the members of the DPRK Government delegation headed by Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Chon In-chol and the members of the Japanese Government delegation headed by Noboru Nakahira, specially appointed ambassador at vice-minister level of the Foreign Ministry.

Chon In-chol Meets Nakayama

SK1103112391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1059 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo March 11 (KCNA correspondent)—Japanse Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama met and had a friendly talk with the DPRK Government delegation led by Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Chon In-chol at the Foreign Ministry this morning.

Present on the occasion were head of the Japanese Government delegation Noboru Nakahira, specially appointed ambassador at vice-minister level of the Foreign Ministry, and the members of the delegation.

The Japanese foreign minister said he warmly welcomed from the bottom of his heart the Japan visit of the DPRK Government delegation.

He added he was deeply pleased that the two government delegations could have full-dress talks after preliminary negotiation, occasioned by the Korea visit of the delegation of the Liberal Democratic Party and the Japan

Social-Democratic Party led by Shin Kanemaru and Vice-Chairman Makoto Tanabe and its talks with the delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Noting that the Japanese Government would sincerely approach the talks for diplomatic relations, Taro Nakayama expressed the hope that the second full-dress talks would bear good fruits.

Chon In-chol said that for the DPRK and Japan to put a period to the protracted state of seclusion and establish friendly relations of good neighbourhood accords with the desires of the two peoples and is beneficial to the peace and prosperity of Asia and the world. He stressed that if the two sides hold the talks in the spirit of mutual understanding and trust, they would reach the common destination as required by the times.

Chon In-chol expressed the belief that when the DPRK-Japan relations are normalized, the two countries would be able to closely cooperate with each other with a common stand and viewpoint in handling international affairs and Asian affairs.

Prior to this, the delegation met with Deputy Secretary of the Japanese Foreign Ministry Takagazu Kuriyama.

Compensation, Nuclear Issue Noted

SK1103164991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1626 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo March 11 (KCNA correspondent)—The second round of the inter-governmental full-dress talks for the normalization of DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations continued this afternoon in the wake of the morning talks.

The talks proceeded in a friendly atmosphere.

At the end of the afternoon talks, head of the DPRK Government delegation Chon In-chol met with reporters at Hotel New Otani where the delegation put up.

Present there were Japanese newspaper, news agency and radio reporters and reporters accompanying the DPRK Government delegation.

Chon In-chol said that the second and third items on the agenda were discussed at the afternoon talks.

As regards the question of compensation for the disasters and losses Japan had inflicted upon the Korean people in the past, he said:

We maintain that Japan must materially compensate for the tremendous damages in human lives and material inflicted upon the Korean people during its colonial rule over Korea.

The Japanese side, too, admitted this and agreed that how to compensate is a matter of further discussion in the future.

The compensation issue will be discussed further in detail at the third talks.

Noting that views were exchanged at the afternoon talks as regards the question of compensation for the 45 years after the war, he contended that relevant compensation should be made for it because it is mentioned in the three-party joint declaration of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Liberal Democratic Party and the Social-Democratic Party of Japan and it is true that Japan has caused losses to Korea in many ways since the war.

He called attention to the fact that the two sides shared the same view that foundations were laid to make a stride forward in future in the compensation issue in the course of exchanging views at the talks.

The question of signing the nuclear safeguards accord under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty was also discussed at the afternoon talks, he said, and declared once again:

We have neither intention nor capacity to develop nuclear arms. We are ready to sign the nuclear safeguards accord any time if the United States gives assurances that it would refrain from making a nuclear threat against us.

Noting that signing the nuclear safeguards accord is a matter to be solved between the DPRK and the United States, he said that the two sides this time became better acquainted with each other's stand.

Touching on the correlations between the talks for the normalisation of DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations and the North-South dialogue, he said:

The DPRK-Japan talks and the North-South dialogue are, by origin, fundamentally different from each other either in view of their nature or in view of their content. The DPRK-Japan talks cannot but progress because it is being held on the basis of the common desire to normalise relations between the two countries. But the North-South dialogue is quite the contrary. Namely, we call for reunification, but the South side tries to freeze the division. We call for adopting a nonaggression declaration and easing the tensions between the North and the South, while the South side seeks confrontation and aggravation of tensions. After all, the DPRK-Japan talks and the North-South talks differ to each other in their desires and starting-points.

Noting that today's talks proceeded in a friendly atmosphere of mutual respect as a whole, he expressed the belief that a bigger stride forward would be made at the third round of the full-dress talks.

Then he answered questions raised by reporters.

Chon In-chol Briefs Reporters

SK1103103091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1007 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo March 11 (KCNA correspondent)—The second round of intergovernmental full-dress talks for the normalization of DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations began here today.

Present at the talks were the members of the DPRK Government delegation led by Chon In-chol, vice-minister of foreign affairs, and the members of the

Japanese Government delegation headed by Noboru Nakahira, specially appointed ambassador at vice-minister level of the Foreign Ministry.

At the end of the morning talks head of the delegation Chon In-chol met with reporters at Hotel New Otani where the delegation put up.

Japanese newspaper, news agency and radio reporters and reporters accompanying the DPRK Government delegation were on hand.

Chon In-chol briefed them on the process of the morning talks.

Since we had manifested in an allround way our stand toward the items on the agenda at the first round of full-dress talks held in Pyongyang at the talks we mainly heard the Japanese side's views on it, he said, noting that the question relating to the normalization of DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations, the first item on the agenda, was discussed at the morning talks.

Saying the sides could understand well each other's stand on this question, he expressed the optimistic stand that although there are differences in their views, they can surely be overcome by the joint efforts of both sides and they can find things in common and reach an agreement.

In particular, the current talks will progress more smoothly as it is being held after a delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea paid a visit to Japan and scored good results, he stressed.

Pointing out that the morning talks held in a friendly atmosphere deepened mutual understanding, he said he could feel through the course of the talks that foundations are being laid to narrow down differences in views and reach an agreement at the third talks in future.

He answered a series of questions put by reporters.

South Premier's Talk to Japanese Reporters Noted

SK1003082091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0800 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 10 (KCNA)—The puppet prime minister of South Korea had a news conference with Japanese reporters a few days ago concerning the question of normalization of DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations, at which he let loose the nonsensical words that Japan should "not mediate" the DPRK-US relations, if Japan admitted the compensation for 45 years following the war to the North, the history of Japan-South Korea relations "would be considered mistaken" and if Japan recognized one Korea, it would cause "a great stir" in the security of the Far East as a whole.

This trash can be uttered only by such splittists and traitors as the ignorant, shameless and brazen South Korean authorities and it is a rash act to put a spoke in the wheel of the improvement of the DPRK-Japan relations and to drive a wedge between them, says NODONG SINMUN today in a signed commentary.

It says: The normalization of the DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations is a work that should be done by the governments of the two countries in accordance with the will and interests of the two peoples and in such a manner as to contribute to peace and security in Asia and the rest of the world. No one has the right to meddle in it.

Now the South Korean puppets are impudently meddling in the affairs of the sovereign states to obstruct it. This is a preposterous act of those who do not know their own position.

Still more preposterous are the utterances of the puppet prime minister that if Japan recognized one Korea, it would destroy the security of the Far East as a whole.

As everyone knows, the talks for normalizing the DPRK-Japan relations are being held in accordance with the joint declaration of the three parties, the Workers' Party of Korea and the Liberal Democratic Party and Social Democratic Party of Japan, which declared at home and abroad that Korea is one and the North and South should be reunited into one.

If the DPRK-Japan relations are normalized on the premise that Korea is one, it will be good for the peace in Korea and her peaceful reunification and favorable for peace and security in Asia and the rest of the world.

The normalization of the DPRK-Japan relations must be welcomed by the Korean nation. Far from supporting such good thing, the South Korean puppets are dead set against its realization. Their act must be condemned as a treachery.

Such far-fetched argument that the recognition of one Korea would destroy the security in the whole of Far East discloses the sinister intention of the puppets who do not want detente in the Asian region, to say nothing of the normalization of the DPRK-Japan relations.

The South Korean rulers should give up at once such treacherous criminal acts as obstructing the normalization of the DPRK-Japan relations, looking straight at the trend of the times.

Protocol on Commodity Exchange Signed With PRC

SK0903043891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0423 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Beijing March 7 (KCNA)—A protocol on commodity exchange for 1991 between the Governments of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the People's Republic of China was signed in Beijing on March 6.

The protocol was signed by Han Su-kil, DPRK vice-minister of foreign trade and head of the government trade delegation, and Wang Wendong, Chinese vice-minister of foreign economic relations and trade.

Yang Shangkun's Meeting With Army Group Noted

SK1103054791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0527 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 11 (KCNA)—Yang Shangkun, president of the People's Republic of China and first vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission, who met the leading members and main actors and actresses of the Korean People's Army song and dance enssemble in Beijing on March 9, said that to strengthen the mutual visits between the Armies of China and Korea are of particular significance under the present situation.

It is unswerving that the two parties and two countries of China and Korea adhere to socialism to the end and advance along the road of socialism forever, he pointed out, and stressed:

The relations of friendship, cooperation and mutual visits between our two parties, two countries and two Armies will continue to strengthen and develop in the future no matter what storm on earth may blow.

Paper Comments on Cuban-Korean Friendship

SK1103121291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1037 GMT 11 Mar 91

["Everlasting Fraternal Friendship"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 11 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today dedicates an article to the 5th anniversary of the visit of Comrade Fidel Castro to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the signing of the treaty of friendship and cooperation between the DPRK and the Republic of Cuba in March, 1986.

The article says that the treaty of friendship and cooperation which was concluded during the visit of Comrade Fidel Castro to Korea was a reflection of the common desire and aspirations to further expand and develop the bonds of deep-rooted fraternal friendship and solidarity between the peoples of the two countries in all fields, and it marked a milestone in the development of friendly relations between Korea and Cuba.

The visit of Comrade Fidel Castro to Korea was an important event that epochally developed the friendly and cooperative relations between the two parties, two countries and two peoples, the article says, and goes on:

Korea and Cuba are far away from each other across oceans and continents but the minds of the two peoples are always closely linked to one [as received].

The friendship and solidarity between Korea and Cuba serve as a good example of comradely relations between the peoples of revolutionary countries and greatly contribute to accelerating socialist construction in the two countries and promoting the world revolution.

The bonds of friendship between the two parties, two countries and two peoples of Korea and Cuba are solid and indestructible as they are based on particular intimacy and fidelity between the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and respected Comrade Fidel Castro.

Cuba is a heroic country which was the first in Latin America to pave the road to socialism.

The heroic Cuban people turned the land of Cuba into an island of freedom where their centuries-old aspirations and ideals are coming into bloom by vigorously accelerating socialist revolution and construction even under the difficult circumstances where aggression, interference and blockade manoeuvres of the U.S. imperialists did not cease. It is the steadfast will of the Cuban people to uphold the banner of socialism against the vicious anti-socialist offensive of the U.S. imperialists. Comrade Fidel Castro stressed in a recent speech that Cuba would never give up socialism. Socialist Cuba is demonstrating its dignity and might under the very nose of the United States.

The Korean people always stand firm on the side of the Cuban people. We will do all we can to support the struggle of the Cuban people.

The Korean people will actively develop the brotherly relations of friendship and cooperation with the Cuban people in the future, too, on the basis of the spirit agreed upon at the meetings and talks between the leaders of the two countries and the treaty of friendship and cooperation signed between the two countries 5 years ago.

KCNA Review of 9 Mar Pyongyang Press

SK0903050091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0437 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang March 9 (KCNA)—Papers here today give an account of a meeting held at the Nansan Senior Middle School, Antananarivo, Madagascar, to convey a gift of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il to the school.

An article of NODONG SINMUN deals with the wise and energetic guidance of Comrade Kim Chong-il in building the Musan Mining Complex into a giant iron headings producer.

Carried in the press is a message of greetings of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea to the First Congress of the Organization for Popular Democracy-Labor Movement of Burkina Faso.

NODONG SINMUN editorially calls for powerfully stimulating the great socialist onward movement with energetic propaganda and agitation.

Econews of the press includes a report that preparations for spring sowing are being stepped up in the countryside.

Comrade Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Council of State and president of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, met with a Korean military delegation, says the press. According to NODONG SINMUN, the general secretary of the National Executive Committee of the Workers' Party of Jamaica met with the charge d'affaires ad interim of the

Korean Embassy in Jamaica and the national secretary general of the Socialist Political Action Party of Peru met with the Korean ambassador to Peru.

A 1991 protocol on the mutual delivery of commodities between the Governments of Korea and China was signed in Beijing, says the press.

The press informs the readers that Chong Man-chol, a young crewman of a merchant ship of a South Korean shipping company, came over to the northern half of Korea.

Carried in the press is a report that the South Korean puppets committed a military provocation by firing a large-calibre machine gun at a post of our side's civil police in the Demilitarized Zone.

South Korean news columns of the press include reports that the interim chairman of the "National Council of Student Representatives" (Chondaehyop) outlined the direction of student movement and reunification movement this year, South Korean dissidents held a rally to smash the suppression of the national reunification movement and various strata of South Korea are staging various forms of struggle in demand of the resignation of the present "regime", the chief culprit of the Suso scandal.

NODONG SINMUN comes out with a commentary condemning the open bayonet-backed rigging offensive launched by the South Korean rulers with the approach of the "local assembly election".

Carried in the press are voices of people at home and abroad and articles denouncing the aggressive "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises.

Spotlighted in NODONG SINMUN are world public voices supporting the DPRK's proposal for reunification by means of confederation.

Given in the press is an account of a ceremony held in Guyana to start the "international solidarity march for supporting the reunification of Korea".

The communique of the supreme command of the Korean People's Army was distributed as the official document S-22281 of the United Nations Security Council, says the press.

According to the press, the U.S. imperialists staged aerial nuclear strike exercises against the North and deployed huge aggressor troops and combat equipment in South Korea.

NODONG SINMUN reports that the chairman of the Central Committee of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party declared that his party would strive to realise the ideal of socialist society, the Iranian president rejected the foreign interference in the security of the Gulf region and the president of the State of Palestine called for the unity of Arab nations and the Chinese foreign minister visited East European countries.

Carried in the paper is news of economic achievements in Cuba.

"Invariable Policy of Strength of U.S. Imperialism" is the title of a NODONG SINMUN article.

KCNA Review of Press for 11 Mar

SK1103063591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0530 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang March 11 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN Monday carries news that the great leader President Kim Il-song's New Year address was widely reported in foreign countries.

The paper reports that President Kim Il-song received a letter from the chairman of the Executive Committee of Antsirabe on the establishment of relations of friendship cities between Antsirabe and Kaesong and the awarding of an honorary citizenship of Antsirabe City to him.

Students in Pusan, South Korea, assiduously study the New Year address of President Kim Il-song, says the paper. The paper reports that "The Workers' Party of Korea Organizes and Guides All the Victories of Our People", a work of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, is studied and disseminated in different countries.

The paper carries an article dealing with the fact that Comrade Kim Il-song convened the historical Wangjaesan meeting on March 11, 1933, at which he put forward the chuche-based policy of expanding and developing the armed struggle into the homeland, and powerfully roused the Korean people to win victory in the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle.

The birthday of Comrade Kim Chong-il was celebrated in various countries and foreign newspapers carried articles, says the paper.

It informs the readers that the group for the study of the chuche idea of Ojota Middle School, Lagos, Nigeria, was inaugurated.

Econews of the paper includes reports about brisk preparations for this year's farming, fast progress of the tramcar project in Pyongyang and preparations for spring tree transplantation across the country.

The paper reports that Premier Yon Hyong-muk sent a message of sympathy to Mozambican Prime Minister Mario Fernandes da Graca Machungo in connection with the big losses caused by a train accident in Mozambique.

According to the paper, talks between the party and government delegations of Korea and Angola were held in Pyongyang, Chinese President Yang Shangkun met leading members and main actors and actresses of the Korean People's Army song and dance ensemble and the ensemble gave a performance for guests of honour in Beijing.

The DPRK Government delegation arrived in Tokyo to participate in the second intergovernmental full-dress talks for normalization of DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations and the Japanese Government delegation gave a reception for the delegation, says the paper.

It conveys news that Korean paddler Yi Chong-suk won the women's single title at the Eighth Asian Cup Table Tennis Tournament and DPRK skaters gave a good account of themselves in the World University Winter Games.

The U.S. imperialists staged nuclear aerial strike exercises against the North and massively deployed aggression troops and combat equipment in South Korea, says the paper.

The paper gives accounts of meetings held at the Pyongyang silk mill, the Kaesong garment factory and the Chonsam cooperative farm in Anbyon County, Kangwon Province, denouncing the "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises and reports that the exercises were denounced in different countries.

South Korean news columns of the paper include reports that a large-scale mass rally and demonstration were held in Seoul to denounce the Suso district housing scandal, the president of the Party for Peace and Democracy urged No Tae-u to have a TV forum to clarify the blame for the scandal and probe its truth, and the National Council of Professors for Democracy published a "white paper on independence at campus".

The paper comes out with a commentary denouncing the South Korean authorities' scheme for unilateral entry into the United Nations.

A U.S. civilian human rights organisation "Asia Watch" published a document laying bare the situation of human rights in South Korea, says the paper.

The paper dedicates an article to the fifth anniversary of the Korean visit by Comrade Fidel Castro and the signing of the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between the DPRK and the Republic of Cuba.

The paper carries news that the Chinese magazine LIAOWANG No. 9 issued an article titled "Important Turning Point in Development of Korea-Japan Relations" and 34th anniversary of independence was celebrated in Ghana.

The paper observes the 24th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level between the DPRK and Burundi.

It carries an article on "Car War" between the United States and Japan, between Japan and EC.

South Korea

Finance Ministry Announces Assistance to Jordan

SK0903052591 Seoul YONHAP in English 0513 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 9 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea will provide Jordan 10 million dollars of the 40 million dollars it has promised for frontline states in the Gulf war, the Finance Ministry said Saturday.

The loan, to be used for waste water disposal facilities in Amman, will come from the Government's Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF), it said.

Since the EDCF was established in July 1987 to give financial support to developing countries, it has helped Nigeria, Peru, Fiji, Ghana, Indonesia, the Philippines and Sri Lanka, it said.

The facilities comprise 66,665 meters of pipes and a plant to purify 4,000 cubic meters of water a day.

Students Hold Demonstration Near U.S. Embassy

SK0903041191 Seoul Domestic Service in Korean 0325 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Around 0900 this morning, approximately 20 students who belong to the National Council of University Student Representatives [Chondaehyop] held a demonstration in front of the U.S. Embassy, located at Sejong-ro, Seoul, to deliver an open notice in protest of the ROK-U.S. Team Spirit military exercise. All of them were taken into police custody.

In the open letter, the students said: Without doubt, the United States has committed aggressive wars, such as the war in the Gulf, for its own interests. Now, it also is pouring cold water on the aspiration of our people by conducting the Team Spirit exercise with the deployment of nuclear weapons. The students demanded that the exercise be suspended.

Polish, Swiss Observers To Observe Team Spirit

SK1103064491 Seoul YONHAP in English 0625 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 11 (YONHAP)—Observers from Poland and Switzerland, members of the neutral nations' supervisory committee of the Military Armistice Commission, are in South Korea to observe the Korea-U.S. "Team Spirit" joint military exercise, the Defense Ministry announced Monday.

The two nations also sent observers last year.

"Those who have arrived here to inspect the joint military exercise are Col. Chan Pak in the Army general staffs and Lt. Col. Kazimierz Gilej, adviser to the vice defense minister, from Poland and and Lt. Col. Juerg Kuersner, chief of international security at the Swiss Defense Ministry," a spokesman said.

He said the observers are scheduled to stay until March 21.

In addition, 29 military attaches based in Korea and the Brazilian military attache in Japan will observe the exercise.

North Expert Says U.S. Needed for Reunification

SK0903024991 Seoul YONHAP in English 0231 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] San Francisco, March 8 (YONHAP)—Korean reunification and security issues cannot be solved without U.S. participation, a leading North Korean political expert told a seminar near this city Friday.

Pak Yong-su, vice chairman of the Committee for Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland, said the union of South and North Korea was "within reach" and the nation could not remain divided for over half a century.

Three South Koreans are also attending the seminar on the Outlook for Peaceful Unification of the Korean peninsula, March 8-16, and will be making presentations.

At a news conference held in a church at the University of California at Berkeley, Pak advised the United States to get directly involved in the unification process.

"The unification and security issues, which are closely tied to the fate of our people, cannot be solved without the United States," he said.

Kim Kyong-nam of the North's Reunification Research Institute said Pyongyang would not make any policy changes as the country did not need a new revolutionary direction and was on the right course with the "chuche" (self-reliance) theory invented by North Korean President Kim Il-song.

"Situations are different country by country, and we do not heed events in Eastern Europe," he said.

The Rev. Pak Hyong-kyu of South Korea called for a reunification movement.

"We felt oneness as soon as we met. There is no reason to remain divided," he told reporters.

Two other participants from Seoul are Prof. Yi Yong-hui of Hanyang University and Prof. Chong Hyon-baek of Sungkyungkwan University.

Foreign Minister Speaks on UN Membership Plan

SK0903010091 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 9 Mar 91 p 1

[Text] Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok made it clear yesterday that the government will seek unilateral entry into the United Nations this year if North Korea refuses to give up its "unrealistic" demand for single-seat membership by the two Koreas.

The government will begin efforts to seek unilateral admission "at an opportune time," Minister Yi said in a meeting with the press.

However, Foreign Minister Yi said that the South Korean government will do its utmost to ensure that South and North Korea join the international body this year simultaneously, but as separate nations.

Then Minister Yi renewed his call for North Korea to take a "more realistic stance" on the question of U.N. membership.

North Korea has contended that South and North Korea should enter the U.N. as a single entity, alternating representation by turns even before the unification. In an aide-memoire sent by the North Korean foreign ministry to the U.N. Security Council on Feb. 20, the North denounced South Korean efforts for unilateral admission as an attempt to realize "reunification by absorption" of the North.

It also threatened that, if South Korea's "unilateral United Nations membership" is approved, North-South relations will be extremely strained and eventually create further tension on the Korean peninsula.

Expressing "deep regret" over the North Korean attitude, Minister Yi said, "We don't have any intention to deny North Korea as an entity in the international community."

Citing the cases of Germany and Yemen which accomplished their unification last year, Minister Yi accented that the entry of both Koreas to the U.N. would facilitate the reunification process rather than hamper it.

"We have to join the U.N. in order to expedite the process of reunification of the nation," Minister Yi stated.

But he said resolutely, "If North Korea sticks to its unreasonable attitude to the end, South Korea will have to begin the unilateral entry process."

Recalling the fact that South and North Korea "fully" discussed the question of U.N. entry during the high-level meetings led by their prime ministers last year, Minister Yi said, "Our legitimate rights to seek U.N. membership should no longer be hampered by North Korea."

Asked when the government will apply for its U.N. membership, Yi refused to give a clear-cut answer. Instead, he said, "The government will take proper measures at an opportune time, considering the situation in and outside the U.N."

Some 71 member countries of the U.N. expressed their support for South Korean entry during the General Assembly last year.

Among the five permanent members of the Security Council, only China has withheld its position in regard to South Korea's admission.

A ranking Foreign Ministry official said that China might not exercise its veto rights against a South Korean entry.

The Soviet Union, a major obstacle during the Cold War, will no longer take a negative stance on the issue, having established full diplomatic ties with South Korea last year.

Seoul To Seek 'Cross-Recognition' for UN Entry

SK1103060691 Seoul YONHAP in English 0129 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 11 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea will try to join the United Nations this year and normalize ties with China through cross-recognition of South and North Korea, government sources said Monday.

The government will aim for diplomatic normalization with China after U.N. membership through multilateral rather than bilateral negotiations, and it will seek cross-recognition by the four main powers in the region, the United States, Japan, China and the Soviet Union, they said.

"Our attempts to enter the United Nations will activate South and North Korean contacts by neighboring countries, including Pyongyang-Tokyo talks on diplomatic ties," a highly-placed official said.

"There is recently the growing opinion within China that, in connection with the developments in Pyongyang-Tokyo ties, Beijing should normalize relations with Seoul," he said.

No Chang-hee, head of the South Korean observer mission to the United Nations, made a secret trip to China in mid-February to assess the situation before the government set its plans, said the sources. While there, No met with U.S. Ambassador James Lilley to discuss South Korea's U.N. membership and forming ties with China.

As it took an economic aid package of 3 billion U.S. dollars to normalize ties with the Soviet Union, South Korea's overtures to China are likely to be smoother and more efficient in a multilateral forum like the United Nations rather than a bilateral framework, he said.

"China also appears less hesitant about South and North Korea winning U.N. entry than about normalizing diplomatic ties with us," the official said.

Japan and China are likely to express candid opinions on U.N. membership, and on Pyongyang-Tokyo and Seoul-Beijing ties, when Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu visits China in May, he said.

Supreme Court Chief Meets Soviet Ambassador

SK0903055691 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 7 Mar 91 p 17

[Text] On the morning of 6 March, Kim Tok-chu, chief of the Supreme Court, received Oleg Mikhaylovich Sokolov, Soviet ambassador to the ROK, and discussed with him for 20 minutes the issue of promoting exchanges and cooperation between the law circles of the ROK and the USSR.

At the meeting, in the form of a courtesy call following his appointment as Soviet ambassador to the ROK last December, Kim and Ambassador Sokolov agreed to prepare, at an early date, a plan for the exchange of judiciary and for cooperation of law circles between the two countries.

Leningrad Mayor Arrives in Seoul for Visit

SK0803122991 Seoul YONHAP in English 1048 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 8 (YONHAP)—Anatoliy Sobchak, the mayor of Leningrad, arrived in Seoul Friday to discuss with Korean officials ways to accelerate cooperation and exchanges between the two countries.

During his five-day stay here, Sobchak is to pay courtesy calls on President No Tae-u and Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok and meet Seoul Mayor Yu Hae-won. Sobchak is also expected to discuss mutual cooperation in establishing a special economic district in the Soviet Union.

His schedule will also bring him to a seminar hosted by the Institute for Nordpolitik on March 11, during which he is expected to urge Korean firms to actively invest in a free enterprize zone in the second-largest Soviet city, an official of the institute said.

Upon arrival at the airport, Sobchak said that the relations between Korea and the Soviet Union has developed more closely since Korean President No visited Moscow late last year.

Seoul and Moscow established diplomatic relations on Sept. 30, 1990.

Hopes 'To Model Leningrad on Seoul'

SK0903072991 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 9 Mar 91 p 2

[Interview with Anatoliy Sobchak, mayor of Leningrad, by reporter Pak Song-hui on 8 March—place not given]

[Text] Anatoliy Sobchak, mayor of Leningrad, 53, came to Seoul on 8 March at the joint invitation of the Seoul city government and the Institute for the Studies of the Northern Policy (director Na Chang-chu). Sobchak is the standard bearer of the radical reformers and is known as one of the Soviet Union's political troika along with Gorbachev and Yeltsin. Sobchak, who is scheduled to stay in Seoul until 12 March, is expected to meet with important ROK Government officials and businessmen during his stay in Seoul to discuss specific ways of implementing ROK-USSR economic cooperation, including the establishment of special economic zones. He majored in economic laws at Leningrad University and graduated with a PhD in economic laws. He is an expert on the subject. The following are the questions and answers between this reporter and Mayor Sobchak.

[Pak Song-hui] What is your purpose in visiting Seoul?

[Sobchak] I have come to Seoul to see with my own eyes the true picture of the ROK, which has achieved dazzling economic development over the past decade, and to model Leningrad on Seoul in its development. Toward this end, I am planning to meet the mayor of Seoul on 9 March and to make myself familiar with the way the Seoul city government is run. As the ROK is ahead of the Soviet Union in terms of suffering from the democratization process, I believe that the way the ROK has achieved its democratization will provide valuable lessons for Leningrad, which is suffering from the ills caused by perestroyka.

[Pak] Do you have any specific plans for exchange between Leningrad and Seoul?

[Sobchak] I would like to promote exchange in two great fields: political and cultural. With its population of 5 million, Leningrad is the second largest city in the Soviet Union and is the Soviet Union's cultural, academic, art, and ideological center. Leningrad, the birthplace of Soviet culture, has produced more artists and ideologues than any other Soviet city. More than 200 museums in Leningrad have fully preserved all the cultural legacy even in the course of the Russian Revolution. In particular, the Kirov Ballet Company, which is scheduled to arrive in Seoul in June for a performance, is one of the three gems that the Soviet Union is proud of, along with the Leningrad Philharmonic Orchestra and the Hermitage Museum. It is the highest of its class, the pride of Leningrad. The Leningrad Philharmonic Orchestra is also an organization that represents Soviet orchestras' self-respect. I expect that these organizations will be more than enough to show to the Korean audience the essence of Russian culture.

[Pak] Is everything proceeding acceptably with Gorbachev's perestroyka?

[Sobchak] Of course, reform is bound to go through difficulties. However, there is no question that perestroyka is now on the move toward its goal. Moreover, a progress-oriented society cannot go back to conservatism, given the law of history.

If there are any businessmen who have doubtful views of perestroyka in the Soviet Union, I would like to meet them and explain to them correctly the situation in the Soviet Union. Frequent reports on student demonstrations in the ROK by foreign media does not mean that student demonstrations take place every day in Korea, does it?

[Editor's note] Sobchak, who become the mayor of Leningrad in May 1990, after his election in May 1989 as deputy to the Congress of the People's Deputies, came to the ROK on 8 March by the Soviet state airline Aeroflot with a company of four, including his wife Ludmila (Narsova), a professor of Russian history; his assistant (Boriyak); a medical doctor, (Kuryk); and an interpreter. They, except Mayor Sobchak, are expected to stay in Seoul until 15 March.

Views 'Districts' for Koreans

SK0903064691 Seoul YONHAP in English 0628 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 9 (OANA-YONHAP)—Leningrad Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak said Saturday that the Soviet Union was considering the creation of autonomous districts for Koreans.

Sobchak, who arrived Friday in South Korea for a five-day visit, called on Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok to discuss enhancing Seoul-Moscow ties and the status of ethnic Koreans in the Soviet Union, ministry officials said.

Calling internal difficulties a passing phase of revolutionary change, he said Korea's economic experience over the last 15 years was significant for the Soviet Union as it adopts an open market system.

Noting that three Koreans are on the Supreme Soviet, the mayor acknowledged that the ethnic Koreans in the Soviet Union are disadvantaged compared to other minorities because they are widely dispersed. There are approximately 430,000 Koreans in the Soviet Union.

Yi expressed his appreciation for Sobchak's interest in the issue and requested continued cooperation to improve the situation, the ministry officials said.

Sobchak said Leningrad was ready to build a medical center in a partnership of South Korean investment and Soviet technology.

The foreign minister expressed his wish that the Soviet Union overcome its internal difficulties soon and take a role in constructing and supporting world peace, they said.

Promotes Leningrad Medical Center

SK1003013591 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 10 Mar 91 p 2

[Text] The joint construction of a medical center in Leningrad is being promoted between South Korea and the Soviet Union, Leningrad Mayor Anatoliy A. Sobchak said yesterday.

Sobchak accented the necessity for Seoul and Moscow to undertake joint projects in other sectors, combining their capital and technology, when he paid a visit to Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok yesterday.

In particular, Sobchak called for positive Korean participation in a special enterprise zone to be established in Leningrad, the Soviet Union's second largest city, according to a Foreign Ministry official who attended the meeting.

"A program is being worked out to pave the way for South Korean businesses to advance into the envisioned special economic zone," he was quoted as saying.

Sobchak also said that South Korea is now being considered as a model for the Soviet Union because of its remarkable economic development.

The Foreign Ministry official said that Sobchak hinted that the Soviets will support the establishment of an autonomous district for South Korean residents in the Soviet Union. Some 400,000 Koreans live in the Soviet Union.

Sobchak admitted that Korean residents in his country are scattered across the Soviet Union because of "historic reasons" and have been maltreated, compared with other peoples in the country.

He indicated his willingness to help South Korean residents get permission to set up the autonomous district in the Soviet Union.

As an example of the increasing exchanges between the two countries, Sobchak revealed that a Korean language department will be established at Leningrad University this year.

Invites Seoul to Soccer Meet

SK0903125391 Seoul YONHAP in English 1038 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 9 (YONHAP)—Leningrad Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak on Saturday asked South Korea to participate in an international soccer competition and a goodwill sports event which his city is planning to host in 1994.

Meeting with Sports-Youth Minister Pak Chol-on on the second day of his Seoul visit, the Soviet official also proposed that the two countries pursue active bilateral exchanges in sports and youth affairs fields, a spokesman for the ministry said.

Sobchak arrived here Friday for a five-day visit at the invitation of the Seoul municipal government.

Comments on Investing in USSR

SK1103090991 Seoul YONHAP in English 0824 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 11 (OANA-YONHAP)—The mayor of Leningrad urged active South Korean investment in his city Monday, holding out hope of special tax and customs favors in a special economic zone in exchange.

Anatoliy Sobchak, addressing a seminar on Korea's nordpolitik and Seoul-Moscow relations, promised fast growth for all who work with the Soviet Union and touted its vast economic and scientific potential.

The seminar, timed with Sobchak's five-day visit to Seoul from Friday, was arranged by the Research Institute for Nordpolitik of Korea and took place at the Korea Exhibition Center. Giving a key-note speech was Youth and Sports Minister Pak Chol-on, chief architect of South Korea's diplomatic outreach to the Communist bloc.

The core of the ongoing change in the Soviet Union is the shift from a one-party to multiparty system of government, Sobchak said.

The mayor, emphasizing the importance of a successful economic revolution for Soviet democracy, noted deteriorating conditions caused by a breakdown in economic ties among the republics, the side effects of misfit financial policies and shortages of agricultural goods. He also pointed to good signs, such as the emergence of joint ventures, private corporations and small individual businesses, adding that these good signs need foreign investment for support.

Leningrad allows formation of joint ventures and 100-percent foreign-capitalized companies through simple registration, and it allows foreign businessmen to use their profit to buy and develop real estate, Sobchak said. His city has major plans to grant tax, customs, and entry and exit favors to encourage foreign investors, the mayor said.

Speaking later on northward politics, Pak called for alignment with the Soviet Union, China and North Korea. Hasty moves with China will alarm North Korea and may invite aggression, Pak said, warning against a form of reunification in which one side absorbs the other.

South Korea should have the courage to sincerely consider North Korean proposals on unification, and above all a summit was needed to open the inter-Korean way, he said. The country ought to turn to dialogue with North Korean citizens instead of the government, Pak said.

Exchanges in sports, economics, transportation, culture and mass media were all called for. Transportation links would contribute to a tourist boom in North Korea, and art works needed to be boldly displayed even if they are deemed "problematic," Pak said.

New Proposal of Soviet Economic Community Viewed

SK1003060791 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 9 Mar 91 p 3

[Editorial: "The False and True Aspects of the East-Sea Rim Economic Community"]

[Text] No sooner had the war in the Gulf come to an end than the Soviet Union's new proposal for establishing an East-Sea rim economic community began drawing our attention. According to the Japanese mass media, during his visit to Japan in April, Soviet President Gorbachev will put forward an ambitious proposal for setting up a new economic community that includes the Soviet Union, Japan, China, Taiwan, and the North and South of Korea in a bid to achieve common prosperity. In a way, it is not at all a new idea to suggest that a new economic community be set up in Northeast Asia.

By the end of the seventies, the Japanese floated the idea of establishing a Pacific rim economic community and recently it is the civilian organizations that have begun raising voices calling for the establishment of the Sea of Japan rim economic community. It was in response to the report that the Soviet Union, China, and North Korea were working out a plan to set up a special economic development zone in an area close to Tomen along the Tuman River.

The Soviet Union has shown great concern about the establishment of an Asian economic zone ever since President Gorbachev's declaration that the Soviet Union, too, is "a Pacific nation," in 1986 in what is known as the "Vladivostok Declaration." President Gorbachev's "Krasnoyarsk Declaration" in 1988 and then Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze's proposal in Vladivostok in 1990 for a conference of foreign ministers from all Asian countries are the advanced expression of such concerns.

Driven also by the emergence of economic blocs elsewhere in the world, our country has felt a great pull on the establishment of an economic zone in Northeast Asia. It is true that the government officials and scholars have shown magnanimity in accepting the idea of establishing a Northeast Asian economic community in the course of enforcing the northern policy and in the nongovernmental international seminars.

The world is now going to be divided by economic blocs such as the European Economic Community, the South-North American economic community initiated by the United States, and the Northeast Asian economic community with Japan and the ROK at its center. We welcome the idea about establishing an East-Sea rim economic community if that is part of such global trends.

There, however, are many pitfals that we must watch out for. With its repeated call for turning the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone, the Soviet Union has tried to keep the U.S. Pacific strategy in check. The Soviet Union's call as such is nothing but a variation of North Korea's reunification strategy. It is not entirely a dislikable development that the Soviet Union has begun showing active concern about reunifying the Korean peninsula.

Nevertheless, it must not go unnoticed that the ultimate objective the Soviet Union is seeking behind such moves is to weaken the U.S. sphere of influence on the Korean peninsula and that when the Korean peninsula is turned into a militarily neutral zone, given its geopolitical proximity to the Korean peninsula, the Soviet Union will have greater say in issues concerning the Korean peninsula.

Seen in this light, we have no choice but to cement the traditional tripartite relationship of cooperation among Korea, the United States, and Japan even more strongly.

To make the idea about establishing an East-Sea rim economic community more effective and more attractive, it is more desirable to induce the United States and Australia to become its members. Economic prosperity should be built on the balanced military structure. Economic prosperity built inside a militarily weak fence will only lead to subordination.

Negotiations Held With USSR on Aviation Pact

SK1103071691 Seoul YONHAP in English 0617 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 11 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea and the Soviet Union began a four-day negotiation Monday on the signing of an official aviation agreement, which the Koreans said might be postponed because of sharp differences over operation of the Seoul-Moscow route.

The two sides are meeting in Korea for their second round of talks to discuss increasing the number of regular flights between Seoul and Moscow for the national flag carriers of both nations.

Major differences center on the number of carriers each side can put on the route and the number of flights per week. The Soviet Union wants to conclude an agreement that would allow virtually unlimited competition among airlines of the two countries, Korean officials said.

The Soviet side is expected to demand the number of flights per week be increased up to 30 and the Korean side to insist on two or three flights.

The first round of talks, in Moscow last September, broke down due to what Korean officials called "excessive Soviet demands." Yi Hon-sok, director general of the Transportation Ministry's Aviation Bureau, led the Korean delegates and the Soviet team was headed by L.S. Seliverstov, director general for civil aviation at the Soviet Transportation Ministry.

Korean Air [KAL] and Aeroflot have one flight a week each on the route under a bilateral commercial agreement signed in February 1990.

Aeroflot wants 15 flights a week, but KAL wants two. Korea sees no reason to increase the number of flights as the number of Koreans traveling to Moscow is small, they said.

Aeroflot wants to use its price advantage to get a share of the lucrative market, chiefly for air cargo, between Northeast Asian and European destinations, according to aviation sources.

Ministries To Hold Meetings on Reunification

SK0903011091 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 9 Mar 91 p 2

[Text] An interministry meeting on unification affairs and inter-Korean dialogue will be held once a month. Deputy Premier-Unification Minister Choe Ho-chung will preside over the meetings to deliberate government policy on unification affairs.

The government resolved to establish the consultative meeting in a weekly Cabinet meeting Thursday.

Participants will include foreign home affairs, finance, justice and sports-youth ministers. The director of the Agency for National Security Planning will also attend the meetings.

The establishment of the consultative body is regarded as delegating power to the unification minister whose post was elevated to the deputy premier last December.

Kim Tae-chung Urges No Tae-u To Debate on Susu

SK0903122991 Seoul YONHAP in English 1009 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 9 (YONHAP)—The opposition Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD) lauched Saturday a major political drive to discredit President No Tae-u and his government over the Suso housing scandal.

Addressing to a crowd of 50,000 supporters in an outdoor rally at Poramae Park in southwestern Seoul, PPD

President Kim Tae-chung challenged President No Tae-u to a live television debate on the scandal, which has widely been described as the largest corruption case since No took office three years ago.

The gathering, primarily aimed at fanning the flame of the public anger at the scandal, was the first of a series of rallies the main opposition party plans to stage in 30 cities across the country this month.

Kim openly criticized presidential office's handling of the scandal, saying, "A senior official of Chongwadae met Chong Tae-su (arrested chairman of the Hanbo Group) at Shilla Hotel in secrecy before he was arrested. The official promised to go light on him if he cooperated in covering up links between No's office and this corruption case."

Chong, Kim said, was asked to mention the names of only those people already known to be implicated in the bribery scandal in the course of testifying before prosecutors.

Kim called on No to order a reinvestigation of the scandal and invoke the National Assembly's power to investigate the state affairs. No was also urged to appoint a special prosecutor to uncover the truth or submit himself to a confidence vote.

Kim said his party secured a witness who he said would provide evidence to support his claim. "I believe that he can swear and testify before the National Assembly if its probe of state affairs is started or a special prosecutor is appointed to investigate the Suso scandal," Kim said.

Insisting that No's office was "definitely" involved deeply in the housing project, the opposition leader asked, "Is it logically possible that No alone was unaware of the project, while Chongwadae's senior officials, cabinet ministers, Seoul mayor and three co-chairmen of the ruling party were all knowing about it?"

Touching on his own party's role behind the scandal, Kim said, "I hereby offer you a sincere apology for my party's acceptance of 200 million won of unclean money. I stake the honor of the PPD and my honesty in declaring that my party has never received any more of it."

The opposition's anti-government offensive came several days after the prosecution officially ended its investigation into the scandal after arresting nine people, including five legislators of both ruling and opposition parties. Newspaper commentators as well as dissidents and oppositionists have contended that the prosecution failed to fully satisfy the people's anxiety to know the truth behind the housing scandal.

Hanbo Group Chairman Chong was arrested for bribing a group of politicians and government officials to persuade them to support his bid to get a private contract concluded with the Seoul city government to secure a large-scale housing lot at the Suso district in southern Seoul for 26 selected housing cooperatives. The district was originally to be put on the open market.

Kim's Claims Said 'Groundless'

SK1003015791 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 10 Mar 91 p 1

[Text] The president office strongly condemned Kim Tae-chung yesterday for spreading "groundless rumors" in a rare tough rebuttal to the opposition leader's allegation of President No Tae-u's involvement in the Suso housing scandal.

A Chongwadae spokesman said that Kim's allegation "does not deserve even a single comment," but he argued, "It is not right for the responsible representative of a major political party to perplex the people with groundless rumors."

"Such behavior only taints the nation's political climate," he said.

Kim, president of the Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD], claimed in a public rally, designed to denounce the Suso housing scandal, that No was aware of the apartment construction project before it became a national controversy.

Kim proposed an open TV debate with No about the scandalous affair in which some 3,000 families were assured of privileged apartment distribution as a result of lobbying by the builder.

Emerging from a meeting of top presidential secretaries chaired by secretary general Chong Hae-chang, the spokesman rejected Kim's TV debate offer.

He described the proposal as a "political agitation." "Kim himself knows too well that such a proposal would not be realized," he added.

As for Kim's claim that his party will be able to put up a witness if the House starts its own investigation, the spokesman said that there's no reason why the PPD should wait until the Assembly investigation. "The PPD should let the witness speak up now."

'New Allied Democratic Party' To Be Inaugurated

SK0803130091 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 5 Mar 91 p 2

[Text] The committee to inaugurate a pandemocratic party to take power (Chairman Yi U-chong), which is composed of pro-Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD] people, convened an executive committee meeting on the morning of 4 March and decided to call the new party the New Allied Democratic Party [sinminjuyonhaptang] and to hold a congress of party founders on 23 March.

Parties Map Out Strategies for Local Elections

SK0903012091 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 9 Mar 91 p 2

[Text] Although political parties by law cannot openly support candidates in the coming local council elections, they promise to be a showdown mainly between the ruling Democratic Liberal party [DLP] and the Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD].

Fierce and illegal campaigning is a sure thing as parties believe the results of the March 26 balloting in small districts will greatly affect their chances of winning the more important large-unit local council elections which are to be held in May or June.

As a result, many people are worried about the possibility of illicit practices such as vote-buying and influence-peddling.

Parties are reportedly mapping out strategies to extend as much assistance as possible to aspirants for seats in local councils, the first in 30 years.

The ruling Democratic Liberal Party has been trying to prevent "too many" pro-DLP figures from running for the coming local elections for fear that they would split votes.

The ruling party is suspected of giving financial assistance to pro-DLP candidates and those with party membership.

For instance, sources said, the party has been helping pro-DLP figures effectively produce posters, leaflets and placards.

The leading opposition PPD, on the other hand, will push ahead with its plan to hold mass rallies across the country during the official campaign period, in defiance of warnings from the Central Election Management Committee [CEMC].

The PPD said yesterday that it will stage mass rallies in about 20 cities to uncover the "truth of the Suso housing scandal," starting today at Seoul's Poramae Park.

The CEMC has ruled that rallies organized by political parties during the 18-day official campaign period are against the law because they could influence voters. Official campaigning began yesterday and will continue until March 25, the eve of the election day.

But the election watchdog body allowed the PPD to hold today's rally.

Refuting the CEMC ruling, PPD leader Kim Tae-chung accused the ruling camp of exploiting the coming local elections to disrupt his party-sponsored rallies to denounce the scandal allegedly involving government officials and lawmakers.

The minor Democratic party also plans to stage rallies in Pusan and other major cities to denounce the influence-peddling scandal from next Wednesday.

The PPD president will attend every rally the party plans to hold to create a "political wind" in favor of his party.

Ruling party leaders, including Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam, however, have no plans to visit provincial areas at the moment, a party spokesman said.

The opposition-sponsored rallies may trigger a showdown with law- enforcement authorities.

The PPD has reportedly been offering pro-PPD figures assistance to carry out effective campaigning.

The PPD sees the local elections as an occasion to expand its political influence nationwide.

Arrest Warrants Sought for Four Candidates

SK1003021691 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 10 Mar 91 p 3

[Text] The prosecution authorities yesterday requested court warrants for the arrest of four local assemblyman candidates who distributed gifts to voters and advertised their profiles in local weeklies in violation of pertinent laws.

The Prosecutor General's Office also ordered the Pusan District Prosecutor's Office to investigate Rep. Kim Un-hwan of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party who allegedly violated the Local Assembly Election Law by throwing a dinner party for some 300 residents of Chong To-tong in Pusan.

In the dinner party held at a roast rib restaurant, Rep. Kim pleaded with the voters to support his aides who will run for seats at a municipal ward council in his electoral district, a kind of pre-electionneering activity which is banned by law.

The Sangju branch of the Taegu District Prosecutor's Office yesterday requested a court writ to arrest Yi Si-ha, 50, owner of an audio shop in Chomchon, Kyongsang-pukto, who handed out ceramic bowl sets to voters. Yi is one of the candidates for the municipal council of Chomchon City.

Yi is suspected of distributing the ceramic sets worth 3,000 won each to 400 residents since mid-February. Prosecutors confiscated 1,500 bowl sets from him as an evidence.

The Suwon District Prosecutor's Office arrested three local assemblyman candidates for running advertisements introducing themselves in a weekly published in Anyang City, Kyonggi-to Friday. They were charged with violation [of] election laws.

The Seoul Election Management Committee, meanwhile, filed a criminal complaint with prosecutors against Yu Sang-yong, 33, publisher of the weekly Kangnam Sinmun, who carried photos and interviews of four would-be candidates in its Jan. 12, 20 and 27 issues in violation of the law.

The Kangnung Election Management Committee filed a complaint with police against Kim Hyong-chon, 67, a local council member aspirant, who distributed socks to 40 heads of "tong" and "ban," the smallest administrative units, seeking their support. He is also suspected of giving 100,000 won checks to several residents.

The Cholla-namto Election Management Committee sued Chong Yun-chae, 61, a would-be candidate for Sungju County council members, for treating 23 residents and arranging tours to Chuam Reservoir for them.

Meanwhile, only 1,180 persons registered their candidacies for local assembly seats across the nation Friday, the first day of the five-day registration period.

The number represents only about 10 percent of the expected number of candidates for local assemblies.

Poll Respondents Fear 'Tainted' Local Elections

SK0903012191 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 9 Mar 91 pp 2,3

[By Yun Chon-sok]

[Text] Despite the government's repeated promise to make the upcoming local elections a fair one, most potential voters are worried that the balloting would be marred by mud-slinging among candidates and political parties.

A survey commissioned by the Central Election Management Committee [EMC] showed that 50.4 percent of the 1,924 people polled expressed fear that the balloting, the first in 30 years, would be tainted by "black propaganda" among candidates and the parties involved and vote-buying activities.

Political parties are technically not allowed to openly support candidates, but in reality parties are bent on getting persons having connections with them elected.

The findings showed that 25.1 percent voiced concern about the possibility of "overly competition" based on regional and academic backgrounds.

Eleven percent replied they were worried that candidates would prey on voters and that practices such as vote buying might occur.

Eight percent pointed the finger to the possibility that government officials and heads of "tong" and "ban," both small administrative units, might intervene in the voting scheduled for March 26.

The correspondence survey was conducted by Korea Research Center on behalf of CEMC Jan. 10-31, involving 1,924. The center said the questionnaires were sent to a total of 7,863 people across the country. Of them, 1,924 mailed in replies.

The respondents included lawmakers, party leaders and "intellectuals," according to the research center.

A majority of the pollees reported they received gifts from candidates and their workers in "recent" national elections.

The presidential and legislative elections were last held in December 1987 and April 1988, respectively.

According to the findings, 44.1 percent said they received "goods" like towels and soap, 33.9 percent meals, 14.6 percent cash and 8.2 percent other favors including tours to hot spas and job arrangement.

The findings, released yesterday, showed that a whopping 71.9 percent of the pollees attributed corrupt campaign practices to the heightened competition among political parties and candidates.

Only 5.6 percent of those bribed by the candidates voted for them, according to the poll.

However, 96 percent of the lawmakers and intellectuals surveyed believed that giving gifts to voters greatly affected election results.

Eighty-one percent replied that candidates tended to spend far more money than allowed by election laws.

About 25.6 percent were asked to vote for a certain candidate by seniors at their work places, government officials and heads of "tong" and "ban."

As for the March 26 local council polls, 76.9 percent said they will "certainly" cast their ballots, followed by 12.5 percent who said they will "probably" do so.

Most of the respondents expressed the hope that political parties would stay away from the elections. Sixty-one percent said they will vote for those who would work hard for their communities, while 32.9 percent said they would pay heed to a candidates' character and 4 percent will vote for partymen.

PPD Proposes Taking Part in Local Elections

SK1103080091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0636 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 11 (YONHAP)—Political parties are legally barred from the March 26 local elections, but the Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD) said Monday it would take part.

The ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) called the proposed action "outright illegal" and threatened to file charges.

Campaign activities are expected to get into full swing once registration ends Wednesday to contest the 4,304 seats on town, county and ward councils for the first time in 30 years.

Although it is clear that parties are not allowed to field candidates, the election law is extremely ambiguous on party support for independents and both sides say they are willing to negotiate on where to draw the line.

The DLP proposed forming a Joint Council for Fair Elections and the PPD suggested a meeting of ruling and opposition party whips, but agreement appears to be far from view.

PPD spokesman Pak Sang-chon issued a statement trying to justify party support as legal. According to Pak, the law says a party member can run in the local elections: if elected, he can stay in the party: party members can register as campaign staff: a candidate can express his support for, or opposition to, the policies of a political party in his speeches: and parties can hold meetings during the campaign period.

DLP Secretary-General Kim Yun-hwan pleaded to a more basic principle in a morning news conference, saying all parties must stay out.

Local election laws say a candidate cannot publicize the fact that he has the support of a particular political party, noted Kim, accusing Kim Tae-chung's party of abusing the elections for political advantage, prestige and power. The PPD, he said, was appointing candidates to its local autonomy committee and "educating" them through rallies and party meetings.

"If PPD and opposition leaders choose to get directly involved in the election and instigate corrupt activities, we shall have no choice but report their actions to the authorities," Kim said.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

U.S. Commitment to Peace in Mideast Welcomed

BK0903082591 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0700 GMT 9 Feb 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 9 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia welcomed the United States statement affirming its commitment to peace in the Middle East.

The Foreign Ministry said the Malaysian Government was encouraged by U.S. assertion that comprehensive peace for the region must be based on United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 relating to the Palestinian issue.

It added in a statement that: "Malaysia has repeatedly called for the convening of an international conference on the Middle East to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the Palestinian issue. A resolution of the Palestinian issue, at the core of the Middle East conflict, would be a step in the right direction."

The statement also said that Malaysia was heartened at the recognition that peace in the region required compromise and the need to close the gap between Israel and the Arabs and Israel and the Palestinians.

"Malaysia welcomes U.S. recognition that countries in the Middle East should bear the bulk of the responsibility for regional security and the pledge to create new opportunities for peace and stability in the region," it added.

Malaysia also fully supported any efforts to heal the effects of war and looked forward to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's visit to the region in establishing a framework for peace.

Singapore

U.S. Jetfighters Arrive for Joint Air Exercise

BK0803132291 Singapore Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Six F-16 fighters from the U.S. Air Force [USAF] arrived today to take part in a bilateral air exercise, codenamed Exercise Southwest 91. It will be held from the 11th to the 22d of this month. The fighters from the USAF's Japan-based 13th Tactical Fighter Squadron will join F-5s, Skyhawks, and Hunters of the Republic of Singapore Air Force during the exercise.

This is the first (?assignment) of the USAF fighter aircraft to Singapore since the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the two countries last November.

Visiting New Zealand Minister Urges Closer Ties

BK0803031091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0238 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Singapore, March 8 (AFP)—New Zealand wants to tap the potential of the Asia-Pacific region through closer economic ties with Singapore, a New Zealand minister has said.

Philip Burdon, minister for trade negotiations, commerce and industry, said Wellington's future depended on the "success of the Asian economies and in particular Singapore, Malaysia, Korea and Japan."

Mr. Burdon, speaking at an investment seminar here Thursday, said his country wanted to participate in projects within the "Growth Triangle" and the proposed East Asian Economic Grouping (EAEG).

The Growth Triangle—involving Singapore, Malaysia's southern Johor state and Indonesia's Riau Islands—provides for a common industrial and economic zone to be jointly developed by the three.

The EAEG was proposed by Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad to promote free trade within the region.

Mr. Burdon stressed that New Zealand believed in free trade and would support such groupings if they complement other larger bodies like the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (AP[illegible]).

He said East Asian investment in New Zealand was still way behind investments from Australia, Europe and North America, despite the fact that the region accounted for a lion's share of his country's imports and exports.

Mr. Burdon said New Zealand offered good long-term investment opportunities, as the government had carried out major reforms to create a stable economic environment for market-driven growth.

Mr. Burdon on Thursday also called on Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and acting Minister for Information and the Arts George Yeo.

The seminar was the first in a series of events being organized to encourage greater economic cooperation between Singapore and New Zealand.

Djibouti President, Wee Kim Wee Hold Talks

EA0903215691 Djibouti Domestic Service in Somali 1700 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Today Djibouti President al-Haji Hassan Gouled Aptidon held talks with President Wee Kim Wee of Singapore in Singapore. In the meeting, which followed a luncheon hosted for the president, they exchanged views on lifting cooperation between Singapore and Djibouti. The presidents also discussed the Gulf region and expressed common views on this subject and situations in the Horn of Africa were discussed. The president of Singapore stressed that the visit is an important one for advancing bilateral relations.

The minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, the minister of public works, the administrator in the Office of the Presidency, and the Djibouti ambassador to Singapore also attended the meeting. The president, who arrived in Singapore last night, will leave on Monday for the PRC capital where he will make a four-day official visit.

Cambodia

Hun Sen on Extraordinary Assembly Session

BK0903073191 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Address by Hun Sen to 7 March mass meeting to support the resolution on the National Assembly's extraordinary session, held in front of the former royal palace in Phnom Penh—recorded]

[Text] Greetings to the beloved clergy and compatriots, comrades, and combatants of the armed forces: Today I am honored to have been appointed by the party, the state, and the front National Council to accept petitions of compatriots expressing support for the State of Cambodia's stance in the search for a solution to the Cambodian problem. On this occasion, on behalf of the party, government, and the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense, I would like to express profound gratitude to compatriots for providing this support. This is a powerful force for the State of Cambodia in the struggle to achieve a peaceful solution to the Cambodian problem. On this occasion, I would like to express special thanks to the Women's Association and its members, and women throughout the country for providing support both at the meeting to mark the 81st anniversary of the international women's day and here.

On this occasion, I would like to take this opportunity to report to the clergy and compatriots nationwide on the outcome of the recent extraordinary session of the National Assembly. I am also aware that compatriots throughout the country, particularly in Phnom Penh City, have been closely following the National Assembly's extraordinary session and have expressed support for various resolutions adopted by our National Assembly on a solution to the Cambodian problem. I would like to take the opportunity at this solemn meeting to inform the clergy and compatriots throughout the country about these views, some of which will be spread outside the country for the benefit of public opinion on some points discussed by our National Assembly recently.

Our National Assembly's extraordinary session, held last week, focused on the negotiations to find a solution to the Cambodian problem. We raised and discussed in detail the document and draft agreement worked out by the five UN Security Council permanent member countries and the cochairmen of the Paris conference since November 1990. I would like to inform the clergy and compatriots that our National Assembly has reaffirmed the acceptance of the majority of points in the 26 August 1990 agreement [kech prom preang] prepared by the five major countries and the cochairmen of the Paris conference. As for the remaining points, as stated in the document at the meeting between Cambodia's Supreme National Council [SNC] and the cochairmen of the Paris conference, these points will be discused at the meeting of the Paris conference coordinating committee and among SNC members. I would like to inform the clergy and compatriots that the remaining points include those which should be added to, improved on, and altered to a small or large extent so that they conform to the aspiration for a political solution to bring durable peace to the Cambodian people. What are the points which should be added to, improved on, or altered to a small or large extent?

There are three main issues of which I think compatriots are already aware. A number of petitions read here just now have clearly expressed those points. I would like to stress that the first issue—which must be added to the document—concerns measures to prevent the genocidal Pol Pot regime's return. The second point—which must be completed, altered, or improved—concerns the political and military situation in the transitional period, namely from the time an agreement was signed until the general elections to set up a new government. The third point deals with sovereignty and the UN Charter. Compatriots are well aware that these are the hottest points and the points that remain for further discussion. We would like to stress that it is because of these three major issues that we cannot accept the agreement in full and about which we demand further negotiations. These issues are not small ones that can be looked at lightly. We also consider that this is not a gamble or child's play in which we are at the receiving end and in which one round is won and another is lost, like in gambling.

We would also like to point out that at the meeting of the Supreme National Council [SNC] with the cochairmen of the Paris conference on 21 December 1990, the conference cochairmen said at the opening of the meeting that this draft agreement does not need to be fully accepted or rejected and that there is no pressure from the meeting to accept it; besides, detailed discussion on this draft agreement has not taken place yet. I would like to stress that we do not totally reject the document and draft agreement worked out by the five major countries and the cochairmen of the Paris conference and we demand further discussion on the remaining points.

Thus, is it right that we are to be accused and blamed, as the reactionary Cambodians have done? We continue to accept the 28 August 1990 framework document of the five major countries as the basis for discussion; as for the draft agreement, we will accept those points acceptable to us and we ask for improvement, alteration, or change of those points that we cannot accept. Therefore, we have not at all rejected the possibility of continued negotiations. On the contrary, we have successively called for the convening, as quickly as possible, of an SNC meeting to resolve the remaining issues. Therefore, there is no reason to blame the State of Cambodia for obstructing the process to find a solution to the Cambodian problem. A political solution demands the most meticulous discussion and realism in drafting the document based on concrete facts. Consideration should be given to the fact that, once agreed upon, it must be surmised whether or not it can be implemented. No foreigners can pressure us on the principle of the right of self- determination. We have our reasons for demanding discussion, addition, improvement, or change; this is necessary for our people because these relate to the Cambodian people's sovereignty and right to self-determination.

Therefore, we demand negotiations. Our reasons for accepting, rejecting, or demanding addition are all essential. We stress that we are not demanding anything unneccessary. We are only demanding what is essential in order to ensure the Cambodian people's vital interests and Cambodia's independence and sovereignty. [passage indistinct] I believe my statement today will be heard by not only by our compatriots inside the country but will also reach foreigners who are paying attention to the Cambodian problem. This is why I want to take this occasion to give some reasons on the three issues. They are as follows.

1. On measures to prevent the genocidal Pol Pot regime's return. The draft agreement worked out by the five major countries and the cochairmen of the Paris conference does not talk about concrete measures to prevent the genocidal regime's return. It talks about human rights but deliberately leaves out the real danger, which happened in the past and which is a threat now and in the future.

On this point, I would like to specify that at the SNC meeting with the conference cochairmen in Paris, I asked the cochairmen and the Deputy UN Secretary General about measures to prevent the genocidal Pol Pot regime's return, because the cochairmen said there are reliable measures. I specifically asked about those reliable measures because I have not yet seen them in the document. However it is regrettable that [words indistinct] my question has yet to be answered. [passage indistinct] the cochairmen of the Paris conference and a number of countries have been searching for a formula to address this issue. We welcome efforts to include measures to prevent the genocidal regime's return. We also stress that in the event there are no such measures, we certainly cannot accept such a solution.

I have been asking myself why the people drafted the document without talking about measures to prevent genocide even though they have acknowledged [passage indistinct] of Pol Pot. This is what I have been asking myself and also foreigners, including those who have prepared this document. Why have they not raised this issue while it [words indistinct]. Is this a game of the major countries? Is this a bargaining game in relations among countries? If this is really a bargaining game of various countries, then this certainly cannot be a solution to bring peace to the Cambodian people. It also cannot fulfill the desire of the Cambodian people, who are afraid of the genocidal Pol Pot regime's return. The right issue has not been addressed. The knot is at the goat's foot, but it is the one at the tiger's foot which is being untied. We hold that this does not conform with reality. As in the past, the threat of the genocidal regime toward the present and future Cambodian political situation remains. Therefore, this point cannot be forgiven. And if there are no measures to prevent and punish the genocidal Pol Pot group, peace in Cambodia cannot be achieved. This would set a dangerous precedent for violating the convention on punishing and preventing genocide.

It is regrettable that various countries have taken refuge under the label of respect for human rights, covering up the base and barbarous acts the Pol Pot group carried out while it was in power; it has been doing this for the past 12 years as well. This is a major reason. There are some who say that there would be an impasse if we raise the genocide issue, and therefore, to avoid the impasse the issue should not be raised.

This is intended to let victims remain as victims and to allow criminals to continue the massacre of victims. We cannot understand this. The criminals have not been punished. Instead they have been granted the freedom to do anything, and at a time when they still have weapons and sufficient political and military structure to massacre innocent people. Can we accept this? No, we cannot. We cannot force victims to make concessions paving the way for criminals to come back and massacre them again. This issue cannot be left out either on a legal or ethical basis.

Furthermore, the first and second Jakarta informal meetings clearly held that there are two keys to the Cambodian problem: first, the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia, and second, the prevention against the genocidal Pol Pot regime's return. It is true that the Paris conference was not held in the same way as the first and second Jakarta informal meetings. We would like to remind and draw the people's attention, however, to the fact that it was the first and second Jakarta informal meetings, and the fourth Hun Sen-Sihanouk meeting in Jakarta that were the broadest basis leading to the Paris conference on the Cambodian problem. Therefore, it is regrettable that this has been forgotten in Paris. When this happened and a demand was made for the dissolution of the State of Cambodia, the Paris conference became deadlocked.

Now there is no opportunity. There is certainly no opportunity if people forget the important reason and key to solving the problem and bringing peace to the Cambodian people. The recent National Assembly's extraordinary session asked this point to be included in the agreement on the problem.

Therefore, I would like to express profound thanks for compatriots, and this is also compatriots' interests [passage indistinct].

(?2.) [Words indistinct] political and military situation before the elections, namely the military and political during the transition. The draft agreement, while not mentioning measures to prevent the genocidal Pol Pot regime's return, envisages stringent measures to control the administration in place and puts forward measures to dissolve the armed forces.

On this issue, I would like to inform the clergy and compatriots that in this document, there is an interpretation by the Deputy UN Secretary General Rafiuddin Ahmad in Paris saying that the administration in place will not be dissolved [romsay] but there will be control [ka truot pinit]. This is a reasonable interpretation. However, we know from the information we have received that China has [sentence left unfinished], and if we know that China has rejected it, the tripartite alliance will also reject [the interpretation]. It is obvious that the propaganda machine of the tripartite alliance continues to talk about the dissolution [ka romleay] of the Phnom Penh government.

A few weeks ago Samdech Sihanouk responded to Foreign Minister Hor Namhong's statement on the (?possibility of) organizing general elections in 1992 without first waiting for a political solution. Samdech Sihanouk said the elections cannot be organized before the Phnom Penh government has first given up its position [choh chenh pi damnaeng].

So, despite a clarification on the non-dissolution of the government, Samdech Sihanouk continues to talk about its dissolution, [changes thought] the Phnom Penh government giving up its position [choh chenh pi damnaeng]. Therefore, the intention of dissolving [romleay chaol] the Phnom Penh government is still there. And if it is not dissolved, stringent measures will be taken. It is true that we will accept control [ka truot pinit] to a degree on certain aspects that will influence the elections. We are concerned about the other side's thinking. This is why we are ready to have UN control [words indistinct] to prevent influence on the elections from the government and civilian administration in place.

Concerning the armed forces, however, this is most important. I would like to inform the clergy and compatriots [passage indistinct] before the elections cannot take place. It is easy to gather, dissolve, and disarm the units of the State of Cambodia through its administration in place. This is very easy because our troops are in positions [passage indistinct]. It is very easy to gather, dissolve, and disarm our troops. At the same time, however, who can vouch that the troops of the bandits Pol Pot and allies could be gathered, disarmed, and dissolved, when even today refugee camps in Thailand cannot be controlled by international organizations [angka antarak cheat].

At the end of January, our State of Cambodia's Foreign Minister Hor Namhong wrote to the UN Secretary General and the cochairmen of the Paris conference asking them to send fact-finding missions to refugee camps and zones under the other side's control. So far no one has been concerned about this. Therefore, who can vouch and say that the troops of the Pol Pot group and its genocide allies—Sihanouk and Son Sann—could be gathered and disarmed? We certainly cannot believe or trust that this would be done. And what would happen when the State of Cambodia is dissolved, particularly the armed forces, while the Pol Pot group and allies are already preparing to hide 30 percent of their forces and a lot of their weapons in unknown hiding places.

I would like to inform the clergy, compatriots, and everyone that reliable sources say the tripartite genocidal alliance is planning to hide 30 percent of its troops and a large quantity of weapons . We won't know where all these will be hidden. [passage indistinct]. So, what would happen when the State of Cambodia and its armed forces have been dissolved?

In such a situation, we propose that the political and military status quo be maintained until after the elections. This has three aims:

The first is to prevent the Pol Pot group and the allies from seizing power militarily. It is true. We know that if the Phnom Penh government and its armed forces are dissolved, the Pol Pot group will certainly take the opportunity to seize power [dandaeum amnach], create confusion, and move toward seizing power [dandaeum amnach]. Therefore, an agreement leading to the final goal—the elections—cannot be implemented. This is the first aim.

The second aim is to maintain the order, security, and stability of socio-economic life for the elections. We clearly know that without security and stability, the elections cannot take place. [passage indistinct] to the election process, which is the key to a political solution [words indistinct]. We would like to draw attention to the fact that the key to a political solution is the election. The election results will decide the political and military issues in Cambodia. Therefore, maintaining the status quo, not dissolution or power sharing, is very important during the transition. The elections are the key and the final phase to a political solution. Therefore, in the efforts to find a political solution we should establish stability and create a neutral atmosphere for the elections. In order to proceed with the elections, two major requests should be taken into account.

1. [Passage indistinct] for the Pol Pot and allies to create confusion and move toward seizing power militarily. This is the first major request because if the Pol Pot group creates confusion and moves toward seizing power or causes instability, this would not lead to elections. This is the first major request.

The second major request concerns the establishment of a neutral atmosphere and stability for the elections. These two requests are two ends of the same knot which should be sufficiently considered in the search for a solution to the Cambodian people. [Passage indistinct] prevent Pol Pot from causing confusion and not thinking about the neutral atmosphere and peace for elections. Stability and a neutral atmosphere for the elections cannot be considered at the cost of allowing the Pol Pot group to take the opportunity to create confusion and move toward seizing power militarily. Thus, these are the two ends of the same knot that should be taken into account in the best manner in the search for a solution to the Cambodian problem.

Based on these two proposals, we propose that the political and military status quo be maintained; a cease-fire on the spot be implemented; troops be gathered into small units of no less than 100 men; warring troops be separated or buffer zones set up; weapons be stored in and not taken out of positions in order to avoid new armed clashes; and that all parties report to the UN control committee on the whereabouts of positions and the number of troops and weapons in each position.

These are our requests for achieving the two goals. We propose that the current status quo be maintained; a cease-fire on the spot be implemented; small units with no less than 100 men be gathered, this can be companies or battalions; and weapons be left in position and be prohibited from being taken out of position. In case (?troops) of opposing Cambodian sides are close to one another, agreement can be reached to keep them apart, to at least prevent troops of the two sides from firing heavy weapons that reach one another. This way could prevent renewed armed clashes. In some places, if it is necessary, we can set up buffer zones with the United Nations in charge. [Passage indistinct] prohibits weapons from being taken out of position because this would renew armed clashes. All parties should report to the UN control committee on the positions and the number of troops and weapons in each position. After the elections with a new government set up, this government will decide on the army issue. If the new government thinks that armed forces of all sides should be dissolved, it is up to the new government. If it thinks that these forces should be integrated to form national forces, so be it. This is the prerogative of the new government set up through the general elections. Only this way can prevent the Pol Pot group from using the opportunity, and it also creates a neutral atmosphere and security for the elections.

We are aware of interpretations by some countries and personalities in some countries according to which the troops issue should be solved in three stages. The first stage is a voluntary cease-fire; the second, the gathering of troops and handing over of weapons to the United Nations; and the third, demobilization of troops. There are thus three stages. Affirmations and proposals of these personalities say there should be mutual trust first before moving from one stage to another. There should be mutual trust first, for example, from the voluntary cease-fire to a cease-fire with agreement, the process to gather and dissolve the armed forces, and handing over of weapons to the United Nations. Or, for example, from handing over weapons to the United Nations to demobilization. There should be mutual trust first. We think this is reasonable but it will (?overlap) with other issues in a political solution package, namely the duration of the transitional period from the cease-fire to the elections. Because of eventualities [yeakthahaet], there should be mutual trust before moving from one phase to another. It is true that the transitional period cannot be determined, but we think this period should not be too long; it should be as short as possible because if it is prolonged there will be violations of the agreement and elections will not be possible. In this sense, if it takes one or two years to go from the first to the second stage and one or two more years from the second to the third stage, when can elections be held? We want to get the elections completed quickly; therefore, we cannot leave this period empty and the duration of the transitional period unspecified and instead subject the transitional period to the issue of armed forces organization. This cannot be done.

A comprehensive political solution is a package; one issue cannot be solved while overlapping another. Otherwise, the final goal, the elections, will not be achieved. This is the second reason for which we absolutely refuse to dissolve the armed forces and propose that the political and military status quo be maintained until elections through the above formula.

On the third issue of sovereignty and the UN Charter. Our demand on this point is no more than what is necessary and is not impossible to achieve because our demand is in accordance with the principle of sovereignty and the UN Charter. There is nothing else that can be done apart from this. We also ask that measures be taken in accordance with sovereignty and the UN Charter. There are two points in our demand: First, Cambodia's internal affairs, which are within Cambodia's sovereignty, should be decided by Cambodian parties that are currently assembled in the SNC. This is what we are currently demanding because no foreign countries can decide on Cambodia's internal affairs or the Cambodian people's destiny on behalf of the Cambodian people themselves. And if the Cambodian people refuse to be reconciled among themselves, no foreigners can pressure them to do so. Therefore, we appeal for the convening of the SNC meeting quickly to discuss internal affairs and other matters within its competence in its role as representative of Cambodia's sovereignty. We would like to stress again that the fact that we propose the discussion of internal matters within the SNC does not mean that we want a partial solution. The goal of our effort is a comprehensive solution. What we propose, however, is to simply divide the aspect and competence to decide on the issue in accordance with the principle of sovereignty and the Cambodian people's right to self-determination. This is the point. We want to stress again and again that we are not searching for a partial solution; our effort is to achieve a comprehensive solution, but the two aspects should be clearly distinguished, and also the competence of those who will make decisions.

I would like to recall the statement made in Fere-en-Tardenois and signed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and myself, which clearly stated right from the start that Cambodia's problems should be solved by the Cambodian people without foreign interference. Since that time, even at the first and second Jakarta informal meetings, the meeting platform has been divided into two: the first is that of Cambodian parties and the second is shared by Cambodian sides and countries in the region. At the meeting in Paris, apart from all the committees which have been set up, there is one special committee, which includes the Cambodian parties and the cochairmen. It is this special committee that is in charge of discussing Cambodia's internal affairs. Now the situation has evolved to the SNC. Therefore, issues should be solved by the SNC in its role as representative of Cambodia's sovereignty and member of the United Nations.

I would like to inform the clergy and compatriots that the other side wants to avoid responsibility in solving the problem within its competence by deferring it to foreigners. At times, it said that Cambodia does not yet have sovereignty. We absolutely cannot understand this kind of thinking. Cambodia is an independent and sovereign country which has also been a member of the United Nations since 1955. Despite changes in those occupying its seat, due to war, now the SNC is occupying the seat. And if the SNC, in its role as representative of Cambodia's sovereignty, does not decide on its internal affairs, does it really represent Cambodia?

I would like to present evidence to show that the other side wants to avoid responsibility on discussing and deciding on Cambodia's internal affairs. At the meeting in Paris, the talks went on until 0100. These people want to take out a sentence saying that remaining problems should be discussed at the coordinating committee and within the SNC. They demanded that the words "discussed within the SNC" be deleted. We objected to this however. Finally, there was a compromise stating "will be discussed among SNC members." This is evidence showing the irresponsibility of the other side in its role as one among two parties representing Cambodia's sovereignty. I have already specified that before, this group was seated in the United Nations but now it has been expelled from there and a unified delegation has been set up—namely between the State of Cambodia and the other side—to go to the United Nations. If the other side does not want to represent Cambodia's sovereignty, it is their decision. And the other side will really remain bandits if it does not cooperate with us in representing sovereignty to solve internal matters.

I would also like to inform the clergy and compatriots that, along with avoiding and refusing to use the SNC role to decide on internal affairs within its competence, the other side has turned to setting up village and commune national councils to replace our state authorities. In December 1990, these people announced that they have already set up a national council in Phnom Penh. This is a serious violation of the agreement because, on the one hand, this organization is not a government or a civilian administration, and on the other, this issue has never been discussed within the SNC. Neither myself nor other [SNC] members present here have ever discussed or agreed with the other side on transforming this national council into a government or a civilian administration from village and commune level to that of the national council in Phnom Penh City. These people have grossly violated the agreement. In this respect, on behalf of the government, I issued the order to arrest those who go around clandestinely setting up national reconciliation groups [krom phsas phsa cheat] in the territory controlled by us because, on the one hand, this is against the agreement, and on the other, it is against existing law being enforced in our country. Along with this, we appeal to those who have been misled—because names of Phnom Penh leaders have been used—and have taken part as members of national councils at this or that level to come forward and present themselves to the State of Cambodia's authorities. We forgive this misunderstanding.

I would like to specify that in a number of rural areas, the reactionary Cambodians have used my name saying that this national council will replace the administration and that it represents Hun Sen, Sihanouk, Son Sann, and Khieu Samphan. Thus, it is clear that a number of people believe that they also represent Hun Sen and other members of the SNC of the Phnom Penh side. We therefore appeal to them to come forward. But for those who have sowed confusion, [words indistinct], I would like to issue order on behalf of the government to arrest them all because this is in violation of the agreement and against the existing law. This is the first point we demand. We demand [words indistinct].

The second point [words indistinct] Cambodia's national sovereignty. We still welcome and accept a UN role in a solution to the Cambodian problem but all operations should be in accordance with the principle of sovereignty and the UN Charter. The extent of power to be granted to the United Nations is to be decided by the SNC. Therefore, the activities of the SNC at this time are very important. It decides on everything relating to [passage indistinct] to the United Nations.

In sum, our demands are not excessive. They reflect the reality of the situation in Cambodia. Achieving a political solution which includes the problems mentioned above is responding to the aspirations of the Cambodian people who want peace with independence, sovereignty, and freedom from the threat of the genocidal Pol Pot regime. Thus, our demands are not excessive and they are not beyond what can be done.

In order to create an atmosphere of trust and push for a quick political solution, the State of Cambodia's government appeals for the following:

1. Quickly convening the SNC meeting to discuss internal affairs and other matters within its competence. I would like to inform Prince Norodom Ranariddh, His Excellency Son Sann, His Excellency Ieng Muli, His Excellency Chausen Kosal, His Excellency Khieu Samphan, and His Excellency Son Sen that we, SNC members in Phnom Penh, propose that the meeting be quickly

convened. His Excellency Chausen Kosal—who is the chairman of the first meeting, which has not ended yet but was only postponed in September 1990 in Bangkok—could convene this meeting quickly in order to settle all issues within its competence. As for the venue and time, we can compromise. I think it can be anywhere; the time will not be a problem.

And Indonesia, [changes thought] I think that the Kingdom of Thailand, despite the recent military coup, cannot abandon its efforts to provide the venue for the meeting in Bangkok. If it is going to be Bangkok, this would be best and easiest for everyone to get to.

2. We propose that a voluntary cease-fire be quickly implemented and call on the UN Secretary General and the cochairmen of the Paris conference to assist in advancing this in accordance with the existing agreement on restraint in using military force. The appeal for restraint in using military force was made since September and successive decisions have been made. Even at the recent meeting in Paris, this appeal was made. But now the attacks launched by the other side continue and weapons continue to flow in. Thus, we propose that the United Nations and the cochairmen of the Paris conference make an appeal and set the time for a voluntary cease-fire with the hour and day when this voluntary cease-fire would take effect.

3. We appeal for the end of foreign military aid to all warring Cambodian parties in accordance with the initiative of the Soviet Union and the United States. We also suggest that the UN Secretary General and the cochairmen of the Paris conference encourage that this be carried out because a peaceful solution cannot now be found through the dispatch of weapons, ammunition, and annihilating materiel to warring parties. A political solution should encourage a cease-fire and in order to implement a cease-fire, all aid to all warring parties should stop. The dispatch of additional aid certainly will encourage the other side, particularly the Khmer Rouge, to continue launching attacks and massacring people. This is one among other causes of mistrust and cannot lead to an agreement.

4. We appeal to the SRV, the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], and the Kingdom of Thailand to strive to reach an agreement on ending the transport of weapons and war materiel through the three countries to warring Cambodian parties. Cambodia shares its borders with three countries: Vietnam, Thailand, and Laos. We now propose that these three countries reach an agreement to prohibit the transport of weapons through their territory. We beg for sympathy from the LPDR, which in the past has never allowed the use of its territory to transport weapons to Cambodia because it is not a communication channel. If Laos, however, takes part in this process, it would build confidence and we think that, despite changes in Thailand resulting from the military coup, we consider that this is purely Thailand's internal affair and firmly believe that the Thai leaders and people will want a peaceful Cambodia as a neighbor. We hope that the Thai leaders, both military and civilian, will continue to actively contribute to the search for a solution to the Cambodian problem. We continue to genuinely aspire to friendship and good cooperation with any government of the Kingdom of Thailand. We express our sincere desire this way and we will not interfere. Also, we have no reaction to the coup d'etat in Thailand because this is the Thai people's internal affair which only the Thai people themselves can solve.

5. We appeal to the UN Secretary General and the cochairmen of the Paris conference to take measures in accordance with the proposal of the State of Cambodia's Foreign Minister Hor Namhong at the end of January 1991 concerning the dispatch of fact-finding teams to refugee camps and zones controlled by the other side. These missions are very important for the process of a future political solution.

As stated above, we are not happy with the indifference which followed the proposal because in 1990, the United Nations dispatched many fact-finding delegations to the State of Cambodia and produced reports, hundred of pages long, on Cambodia, the administrative structure, the economy, and other issues. We clearly believe that the delegations have grasped a number of situations and are contemplating an infrastructure to set up peacekeeping forces although the number of troops has yet to be determined. While hundreds of pages of reports on the situation in the State of Cambodia are with the United Nations, there is still no information whatsoever on the other side. We would like to stress that this is one reason for the lack of confidence in our attitude, if the refugee camps in zones now under the other side's control cannot be inspected, when the time comes to implement an agreement on a political solution, will it be possible to control and find arms caches and troop hideouts of the bandits? Therefore, we insistently appeal to the UN Secretary General and the cochairmen of the Paris conference to take this measure, as already done toward the State of Cambodia.

We think that the Khmer Rouge and their allies have accepted the peace plan without any reservation. Therefore, there is no reason to obstruct the dispatch of fact-finding missions to zones under their control and in refugee camps. They should acknowledge and admit this situation because they have unreservedly accepted the plan.

The above five points are urgent issues in finding a political solution because they are the basis for creating mutual trust. These are the points I would like to report to the clergy and compatriots at this meeting following the National Assembly's extraordinary session.

Beloved compatriots, a political solution is our unswerving aspiration to bring peace and national reconciliation. The path to a solution, however, is a difficult one. Our enemy does not want to solve the problem yet because it still wants to score a military victory. This is why it continues to launch military attacks despite its promise to exercise restraint in using military force.

Foreign aid continues to flow into Cambodian territory to the reactionary Cambodians to continue massacring and destroying our people. It has promised military restraint but continues to launch attacks and has received a lot of modern weapons to destroy innocent people.

In such a situation, I appeal to compatriots and armed forces to get ready to defeat the enemy's military adventure; strive to carry out production work and consolidate stability and the people's lives. I appeal to officers and troops in the ranks of the other Cambodian side to end the massacres of innocent people and destruction of national and people's property. Please awaken and return to the nation and people. What all of you are waging is a war without a definite goal and it is an adventure with no return. It is a war which brings only destruction to the nation and your own families.

Beloved compatriots and the clergy, today we meet in an atmosphere and a situation in which we are moving forward with or without a political solution. We again and again stress that a political solution is our goal, however, not just any political solution is acceptable. A political solution should ensure durable peace free from the genocidal regime's threat, peace which should be established only with independence and sovereignty. There can be no peace without independence and sovereignty. Therefore, we continue our efforts along the path we have already chosen.

Once again, I would like to express thanks for our compatriots' support for the stance of the party and government in the search for a solution to the Cambodian problem. This is an encouraging force, a direction, a compass pointing the way to me and other colleagues who will head for the negotiating table. I would also like to thank you for your attention in listening to me on this occasion. May the clergy and compatriots be blessed with all kind of successes.

Mat Ly Says Elections in May, Jun 1992

BK0903081291 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0400 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Phnom Penh 9 Mar (SPK)—"With or without a political solution to the Cambodian problem, general elections will be held in May or June 1992 in conformity with the Constitution of the State of Cambodia."

This was stated by Mat Ly, member of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party [KPRP] Central Committee Political Bureau and vice chairman of the National Assembly, at a meeting in Phnom Penh on 7 March with the German parliamentary delegation headed by Dieter Schanz which is visiting Cambodia.

After informing his guests about the structure of the legislative branch in the State of Cambodia, in particular the outcome of the recent special session of the National Assembly, Mat Ly, taking up the Cambodian issue, said: "The political and military status quo in Cambodia should be preserved until elections for a new government. In the search for a political solution to the Cambodian problem, the United Nations should comply with the UN Charter and the principles of respect for Cambodia's sovereignty and the Cambodian people's right to self- determination.

"Only the Supreme National Council, which represents Cambodia's sovereignty, is empowered to decide on the UN role," underlined Mat Ly reaffirming the stance of the State of Cambodia:

"Any political solution to the Cambodian problem should primarily guarantee the non-return to power of the genocidal Pol Pot clique."

Dieter Schanz, who also belongs to the Socialist Democratic Party of Germany and is a member of the Socialist International, praised the State of Cambodia for its rapid development, in particular the KPRP and the State of Cambodia's legislative body, and pointed out that the objective of his visit to Cambodia was to find out the reality in Cambodia.

Phnom Penh Wrests Bar Lang From Khmer Rouge

BK0903121491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1211 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Phnom Penh, March 9 (AFP)—Phnom Penh forces have wrested a major ruby mining centre in western Cambodia back from the Khmer Rouge resistance faction, a senior Commerce Ministry official said here Saturday.

Mao Thora, the ministry's External Trade Department head, said he heard earlier this week that Bar Lang, a town close to the Thai border, was back in government hands about a year after it was overrun by Khmer Rouge guerrillas.

The guerrillas also hold Pailin, a better-known gem centre about 10 kilometres (six miles) further south.

Mining may recommence soon at Bar Lang, bringing much-needed funds to the government, Mr. Mao said.

The army is barring entry to the hilly town but "people will flow in because it is an area rich with precious stones."

Bar Lang's rubies are the best in Cambodia because of its deep mine shafts and the warm soil, the official said, adding that the area also yielded sapphires.

Pailin gems are considered inferior but the Khmer Rouge is said to make millions of dollars every week from licenses to Thai miners.

The resistance faction also exploited Bar Lang when it controlled the area, Mr. Mao said.

"We are waiting for news from the army at Bar Lang, how firm they are" before reopening the mines to bring millions of dollars into the state's empty coffers, Mr. Mao said.

The government would take its share of the lucrative trade by selling off plots by the square metre, levying taxes on gem sales and charging people for the right to settle in Bar Lang.

Mr. Mao said that when he last visited Bar Lang in 1989, a community of 100,000 people had sprung up and was hard to control.

Gems from Pailin and Bar Lang have been reaching Phnom Penh, but through Thailand, sources said.

Mr. Mao said some uncut stones at Bar Lang were worth half a million dollars, and many worth 10,000 dollars and 20,000 dollars were scattered around the area.

SPK Criticizes Chinese Aid to Khmer Rouge

BK1003132391 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1123 GMT 9 Mar 91

["China—The Main Obstacle to Cambodian Peace Process"—SPK headline]

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK March 9—The Cambodian people [words indistinct] upset by China's announcement on Thursday that it would not stop military aid to the Khmer [words indistinct] until a political settlement of the Cambodian problem is achieved. This is contrary to China's earlier declaration that it had stopped arms shipments to the resistance since November following the initial agreement on a UN-brokered peace plan for Cambodia.

By so doing China has revealed its hypocrisy towards the Cambodian people, victims of the Pol Pot genocidal regime, and the world community [words indistinct] that the main obstacle of a comprehensive settlement of the Cambodian problem comes from China itself. China is encouraging the Khmer Rouge Polpotists to continue obstructing the implementation of the blue-print document forged by the permanent members of the UN Security Council, including China. Beijing, the main backer of the Khmer Rouge Polpotists, is grossly interfering in the internal affairs of the Cambodian people who have their own sovereignty, territorial integrity and the right to self-determination. The reversal in China's policy on Cambodia in continuing arms shipment to the Khmer reactionary groups is aimed at intensifying the military offensive against the Cambodian people and helping the other Khmer side to seize power. The settlement of the Cambodian question is entering the decisive stage. Although some problems [words indistinct] to the internal affairs of Cambodia have not yet been solved, a possibility has been opened for arriving at an overall political solution on the basis of respect for Cambodia's sovereignty.

Meanwhile, China is pouring more oil into the flame by encouraging the Khmer Rouge Polpotists to intensify the civil war. It is public knowledge that the armed forces of the three factions, chiefly the Khmer Rouge, which have been reinforced, are stepping up their armed attacks along the northwestern border of Cambodia. They are attacking populated areas, including a camp of displaced Khmer people near Sisophon Town [Battambang Province], causing big losses in lives and property to the civilian population and seriouly undermining the process of peacefully settling the Cambodian question. In such situation, the Cambodian people hope that the international community particularly China, should take practical and effective measures to prevent the civil war from escalating and to accelerate the peaceful settlement of the Cambodian question. The key issues on the road toward a final solution are the internal affairs of Cambodia. Hence, it is imperative now [words indistinct] self-restraint, observe a ceasefire at an early date, and reconvene the Supreme National Council to discuss and resolve the internal aspects relating to Cambodia's sovereignty, territorial integrity and right of self-determination. We urge China to stop interfering in the internal affairs of the Cambodian people as it has rejected outside interference in its internal affairs in the cases of Tiananmen Square and Tibet.

Sincerely desirous of early settling the Cambodian issue, the Phnom Penh government has done all it could, including the acceptance of the "five perms" blueprint-document as a basis for further discussions and most parts of the draft agreement set out on 26 November 1990 [words indistinct] co-chairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia in Jakarta.

The Cambodian people call on all other [word indistinct] to continue their efforts to accelerate the peace process in order to early bring peace and stability to Cambodia, Southeast Asia and the rest of the world.

The most important and urgent thing for China to do now is to stop its military aid to the Khmer reactionary groups and bring them to another meeting of the Supreme National Council, symbol of Cambodia's unity, sovereignty and teritorial integrity.

Son Sann: Hanoi Stands in the Way of Settlement

BK1103072291 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Text] His Excellency Son Sann, president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front and a member of the Cambodian Supreme National Council, has said that now there is substantial evidence to show the world that the stumbling block to the settlement of the Cambodian problem is from the Hanoi authorities.

Upon his arrival at Bangkok Airport from France yesterday, His Excellency Son Sann said: The recent visit by the cochairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia and the UN representative to Hanoi has shown these dignitaries that it has been the Hanoi Vietnamese authorities who have been standing in the way of the settlement of the Cambodian issue. The Hanoi authorities and the Vietnamese-installed Cambodian faction in Phnom Penh are those who have objected to key points of the UN peace plan hammered out by the five major countries.

His Excellency Son Sann will visit China for five days starting tomorrow.

Laos

Meeting Held With Thai Joint Military Committee

BK0903081391 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0430 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] On 7 March 1991, the joint military committees of Laos and Thailand held a meeting at Meuang Phe village, Boten District, in Laos' Sayboury Province, to continue consultations and to exchange information on various developments taking place along the border between the two countries over the past month.

At the meeting, the Lao side was led by Colonel Phommachak Soutthisan, head of the joint military committee of Laos; and the Thai side by Major General Wirot Wilailak, head of the joint military committee of Thailand. It was also attended by local administrative officials of both sides.

In addition to exchanging information on the incidents occurring along the border between the two countries from the north to the south over the past month, which may have caused adverse effects on the fine relations of brotherliness, the heads of the joint military committees of the two sides also consulted on finding ways to resolve all problems in an amicable manner, aimed at preventing any misunderstandings and settling all issues through peaceful means on the basis of forging stronger brotherly and neighborly bilateral ties, thereby further strengthening the brotherly contacts between the peoples of the two sides.

Somlat Chanthamat Returns Home From Visits

BK0903014091 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] The delegation of the Propaganda and Training Board of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee [LPRP CC], led by Somlat Chanthamat, secretary of the LPRP CC and head of the board, returned to Vientiane on the afternoon of 5 March after ending its 12-day visits to the SRV and the State of Cambodia at the invitation of the Propaganda and Training Boards of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee.

During the visits to the SRV and the State of Cambodia, Somlat Chanthatmat and his party met and consulted with their hosts on the outcome of cooperation on the propaganda and training work at the central level among Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia in the past year as well as cooperation programs in this field in the years to come. In addition, the Lao delegation also visited several production bases in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, and Phnom Penh.

Municipal Party Committee Convenes Conference

BK0903063991 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] To make preparations for and to welcome the forthcoming Fifth Congress of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] and after concluding all cadre meetings in many districts, on the morning of 8 March the conference of cadres of the party committee of Vientiane Municipality was officially convened in Vientiane Capital.

Attending this cadre conference as guests of honor were Sisavat Keobounphan, member of the LPRP Central Committee Political Bureau and secretary of the party committee of Vientiane Municipality; Somlat Chanthamat, secretary of the LPRP Central Committee; together with members of the party and administrative committees and 153 full delegates from offices, services, and factories in seven districts, representing nearly 3,000 party members in the municipality.

In assessing the party committee's leadership in guiding the implementation of the resolutions adopted at the first congress of the party committee and in assessing the implementation of the restructuring policy in the past, Sisavat Keobounphan presented a report to the conference on the achievements and victories won over the past 5 years. The report said: Even though the international and internal situations have changed in both positive and negative directions in an unprecedentedly rapid manner, thanks to the resolutions adopted at the Fourth Party Congress, the party Central Committee in its many subsequent plenary sessions has translated into details the restructuring policy for effective implementation, thus allowing it to win one victory after another. In the process of translating this policy into reality, Vientiane Municipality, acting as the heart of the country, has become an experimental ground for the execution of this policy, thus serving to bring prosperity and wealth to our country in many fields. For instance, our political, ideological, and organizational development has become even firmer than before. Our economic construction and development have expanded in a rigorous manner, thus gradually improving the living conditions of our multiethnic people and changing the face of our country for the better.

After hearing the report, the delegates to the conference must conduct a profound study and must express comments on it so as to identify strong and weak points for effective rectification. This is to prepare conditions for convening the second congress of the party committee of Vientiane Municipality.

The conference, scheduled for two days, is expected to elect a delegation to attend the forthcoming Fifth LPRP Congress.

Philippines

U.S., Japan, PRC, Others Invited to Bases Talks

OW0803135891 Tokyo KYODO in English 1259 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Manila, March 8 KYODO—The Philippines has invited the United States, Japan, Australia, South Korea, and China to join the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in talks aimed at building consensus on U.S. bases here, a senior Department of Foreign Affairs official said Friday.

The security dialogue, initiated by the Philippines and cosponsored by Thailand, will be held in the first week of June in Manila, said the official, who refused to be named.

The official said the invitations were sent last week to government officials and academics from ASEAN members and the five non-ASEAN countries.

"So far we have received two or three positive responses," the official said.

The talks in Manila will be the first of two, with the next to be held in Thailand.

"The focus of the dialogue is on regional security, perception of countries in the region, alternatives to the U.S. security umbrella and prospects of regional security cooperation," the official said.

The Philippines is hoping the talks would produce a "positive conclusion" on the need for the U.S. bases to stay in the Philippines, the official said.

Indonesia and Malaysia—both ASEAN members—are opposed to an ASEAN dialogue on the U.S. bases. The two countries belong to the Nonaligned Movement, which is opposed to the presence of foreign troops.

Manglapus Ends U.S. Visit; Bases Talks in Jun

HK0903055291 Manila DWIZ Radio News 882 in Tagalog 0400 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus ended his visit to Washington after a meeting with the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee at the Capitol Hill office of Alan Cranston. According to Secretary Manglapus, the compensation and duration issues regarding the phasedown period for the U.S. military facilities in the Philippines were reportedly the major issues discussed by both sides. Manglapus informed Senators Richard Lugar, Frank Murkowski, Paul Sarbanes, Charles Robb, Claibourne Pell, and Cranston of the alleged positive Philippine view regarding the bases.

Meanwhile, Secretary Manglapus expressed the belief that Republic of the Philippines-U.S. bilateral relations have become stronger.

In related news, the Philippines has invited the United States and four other countries to participate in a dialogue aimed at determining whether or not to allow the U.S. bases to stay. According to the report, the invitations were sent to Japan, China, Australia, and South Korea asking them to attend the informal dialogue scheduled for June this year. The talks are part of a security dialogue by ASEAN, which includes the Philippines, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, and Brunei. The meeting will focus on regional security, the countries' views of the region, other alternatives for the U.S. security umbrella, and prospects for regional cooperation. The meeting's goal is to reach a regional consensus regarding the need for the military bases to counter Filipino opposition, especially the Senate which is responsible for approving a treaty that would extend the presence of the U.S. bases in the country.

Talks Called 'Encouraging'

HK1103091291 Quezon City MALAYA in English 11 Mar 91 pp 1, 6

[By Cherry Velarde]

[Excerpt] Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus arrives today from a 10-day visit to the United States optimistic that a new bases treaty would be forged this month following what he described as encouraging talks with top officials in Washington.

Although the issues of compensation and duration have not been resolved, Manglapus has said a possible "creative compensation formula" may clear the way for a new treaty.

The Philippines has hinted of a possible compromise on its demand for a yearly compensation of $825 million during a seven-year phaseout period.

But a source close to the Philippine negotiating panel said a compromise would not extend to acceptance of a "best efforts" pledge or the U.S. proposal for a $360 million yearly rental for a 12-year phaeout.

He said various formulas on compensation might have to be explored in the next round of talks in Manila.

One formula guarantees payment for the first year. Payments in subsequent years will be on "best efforts" basis.

"The problem with 'best efforts' is that the U.S. Congress can only approve the pledged amount or reduce it, but not add to it," the source said. [passage omitted]

Manglapus on More Talks

HK1103115891 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Text] Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus arrived this morning from his 10-day visit to Washington where he presented the Philippine bases position to U.S. officials and legislators. He explained that both sides found it difficult to resolve the compensation issue. However, he said that the proposed compensation will be given but the procedure of payment has yet to be revised. Manglapus reported that Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao and Trade Secretary Peter Garucho will also go to the United States to discuss the debt reduction and trade relations issues.

Meanwhile, Secretary Manglapus said there may still be a need for another round of talks on the U.S. bases to resolve the impasse on the compensation and duration issues. Here is Rey Arquiza with the details:

[Begin recording] The Philippines and the United States are still searching for ways to resolve the impasse on the bases compensation issue. Although Manglapus did not directly admit that his trip to Washington had been a failure, he stated that he failed to convince Washington officials they should strike a compromise on the compensation issue, saying: At the moment, I have to confess that that formula is not yet visible. [preceding sentence in English] However, he said that the U.S. officials with whom he had talked showed sincerity in their promise to find an acceptable compromise. Due to the impasse on the compensation issue, another round of talks on the U.S. bases may take place next month. The Philippine position on the U.S. bases is to grant a seven-year bases phaseout, during which the U.S. must pay the Philippines $825 billion per year. The U.S. said it can only pay $360 million per year and wants a 10 year extension of its bases. [end recording]

Editorial: Manglapus Peddling Bases for Dollars

HK1103104091 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 11 Mar 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Did Manglapus Sell Philippine Bases Short?"]

[Text] Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus is expected back in Manila today bringing home not the bacon but a thin slip of paper reporting on his heroic, if not pathetic, attempts to get the United States to give us $825 million annually for its continued use of two major Philippine bases for seven years after the present lease expires in September.

The counter-offer of the U.S. had been a measly $320 million annually for 10-12 more years, and only on a "best effort" to get yearly congressional approval of the fund release.

When chief U.S. negotiator Richard Armitage left last month after putting on the table his last best offer and the Philippine Foreign Secretary followed him, hat in hand, that signalled the collapse of the Philippine position. It was an unfortunate error on the part of Manglapus to have gone to Washington to peddle the bases for more dollars—a spectacle reminiscent of an Olongapo woman peddling her daughter near the gate of the naval base.

By frantically following Armitage to Washington, we threw away the valuable leverage of a landlord, that of setting the basic terms and leaving the tenant to negotiate for easier terms. The way our mouths watered as we chased the Yankee dollar, we advertised to the world our abject helplessness and, therefore, our vulnerability at the negotiating table.

The only way we can now salvage the situation is to ask the United States to please package some "creative" items to pad the payments enough to look reasonable. They can add money already committed under other programs such as the Philippine Aid Plan and dump on our armed forces U.S. military junk that will be assigned dollar values running into millions. Of course that will be fooling ourselves, but we have already made fools of ourselves, so we cannot look any more foolish.

It is strange that spokespersons of the U.S. State Department have been saying since last month that the bases talks are substantially completed and that the signing of a new security treaty is expected this month. The impression is that the talks were substantially concluded after Armitage said "take it or leave it" and flew back to Washington last February.

It is understandable that a big number of senators are now fuming at the scandalous erosion of the Philippine position. A good example of such a downgrading was the Philippines' boast that it would take over Clark air base after Sept. 16 with a few selected critical areas to be left to exclusive U.S. control. The story being fed to us now is that Clark, like Subic naval base, will remain in American hands for seven years for an acceptable sum.

Another disturbing point is the reported willingness of the Manglapus panel to continue giving the U.S. the benefit of the doubt as regards the entry or transit of nuclear weapons and vessels under the Manglapus-Shultz amendment.

Under our system, the President is the sole spokesperson of the nation in foreign affairs. The negotiation for the upcoming treaty is in the hands of the Executive, whose bunglings can still be corrected when the treaty is submitted to the Senate for concurrence.

The picture will become clearer, hopefully, after Manglapus reports on the result of his unfortunate peddling of the national honor in Washington.

Compromise Bases Plan Presented to Government

HK1103090491 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 11 Mar 91 pp 1, 10

[By Rod L. Villa]

[Text] The government was presented yesterday with a compromise plan to bridge the gap separating the Philippines and the United States toward settling the military bases issue, aimed at wiping out $5.3 billion of the country's foreign debt and rebuilding the economy.

Rep Jose de Venecia (LDP [Struggle of Philippine Democrats], Pangasinan), chairman of the House foreign affairs committee, said the plan phases out the U.S. military installations in the year 2000, and features a financial scheme and an extensive infrastructural program which are achievable because they will not burden the deficit-ridden U.S. national budget.

The program highlights a build-operate-transfer (BOT) package that will expand local domestic power stations, telecommunications, large industrial complexes, airports, seaports, markets and irrigation systems, while increasing U.S. exports, De Venecia said.

It also crafts a separate and enlarged textile agreement designed to enhance trade access to the U.S. by making it a part of the compensation package for extending the use of Clark Air Base and the Subic Naval Base, he said.

"Properly organized, the bases-related benefits could be in excess of $28 billion," De Venecia said.

However, he said the program calls for an expanded foreign investments law to attract U.S. and other multinational companies. A bill for this purpose is awaiting approval in the Senate and the House of Representatives.

De Venecia said the plan will be officially presented to President Aquino and Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus, who returns from the U.S. today, and to senators and anti-bases elements for discussion and refinement.

He and Manglapus had devised the debt-reduction provision in the 1989 Manglapus-Shultz bases agreement which has already reduced the foreign debt and debt service payment by $500 million.

The compromise plan, he explained, calls for the Philippines to use part of the U.S. cash payments to purchase 20-year U.S. treasury bonds that will backstop or collateralize the issuance by the Philippines of dollar-denominated bonds worth $2 billion.

The Philippine bonds will be exchanged for, or cancel out, the commercial bank debt of $5.3 billion which De Venecia described as "the nastiest and most burdensome portion" of the $28-billion foreign debt.

The plan places the Philippines in a position to seek a compromise from the much-criticized best-effort clause in the payment of bases compensation by the U.S. to a "formal U.S. treaty commitment, subject only to the U.S. constitutional appropriation- making process."

"Based on this language," De Venecia said, "many of the 300 foreign banks, central banks and state-owned investment banks of Japan Singapore, South Korean, Taiwan, and European governments benefitting from the U.S. bases in the Philippines, will buy the bonds since they are backed by the U.S. government."

The bonds will as well be sold aggressively to the central banks and finance ministries of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Oman, whose security during the Gulf War was assisted directly by American military operations springing from Clark and Subic, and which will need the support of these bases now and in the future, De Venecia said.

This, he said, will be part as well of the new "burden sharing approach of political and financial terms needed to keep the U.S. bases in the region."

The remaining nine-year duration to phase out the bases by the turn of the century, De Venecia explained, is a compromise between the Philippines' offer of seven years, and the U.S. request for an extension of 10 to 12 years. This provides the U.S. with special access to the bases, with limited personnel and logistics under commercial terms beyond 2000.

He said the nine-year tenure will encourage the U.S. to extend the Philippine Aid Plan (or Multilateral Aid Initiative) from the current five to nine years, noting that already the first two years of PAP have yielded $6.8 billion, pledged or contributed by Japan, the U.S., the World Bank and multilateral financial institutions.

The BOT initiative must be supported by the U.S. government's political risk insurance guarantees and U.S. Export-Import Bank concessional financing to enable U.S. companies to build "big-ticket projects" targetted at $2 billion a year, he said.

This is to be enhanced by a liberalized foreign investments bill to attract Japanese and European companies to form joint-ventures with U.S. and Filipino firms, he said.

The package calls as well for the condonation of the Philippines' $350-million debt in military equipment, and $50-million worth of food exports under U.S. Public Law 480.

The package grants the Philippines the power to review agreements dealing on criminal offenses by U.S. servicemen, and incorporates the best provisions found in U.S. bilateral agreements on bases with Japan and European countries.

Sale of Products to U.S. Bases Considered Exports

HK1103053291 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 11 Mar 91 p 6

[Text] Sale of local products to the United States military bases in the country will now be considered exports with the issuance recently of Central Bank [CB] Circular No. 1270.

This development will enable eligible suppliers to the U.S. bases in the country to avail themselves of the CB rediscounting and dollar-denominated working capital credit facilities, according to the Bureau of Export Trade Promotion [BETP] of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

U.S. military facilities in the country have been procuring a variety of products from local suppliers as part of an agreement signed by the Philippines and the U.S. in June 1983.

However, goods sold to these facilities were only considered as domestic sale. Latest sales figures were to the U.S. bases in 1988 reached $216.3 million. The 1988 record was 241% higher of than the 1985 figure of $63.4 million.

The CB circular was issued in response to requests of the BETP in behalf of the exporters.

Under the circular, all sales of Philippine products to the military bases will be considered constructive exports provided the following conditions are met by the suppliers:

—Payment must be made within 60 days from shipment/delivery date in U.S. Treasury dollar "lipsticked" checks, or U.S. Treasury checks overprinted in red ink with the words "payable only in pesos through authorized agent banks of the CB and these are to be surrendered and sold for pesos to authorized agent banks withing three days from receipt";

—Every shipment or delivery must be covered by an export declaration with foreign exchange proceeds stamped with the words: For record purposes only and not for loading purposes at the Bureau of Customs area";

—Within seven days from delivery date, the exporter must submit copies of the relative sales documents (purchase order/sales contract and delivery receipt) to the authorized agent bank concerned which shall forward said documents to the Central Bank Export Department under Daily Report on Export Negotiations, and; [end of item as published]

Aquino Supports U.S. Moves in Middle East

HK1103103891 Quezon City MALAYA in English 10 Mar 91 pp 1, 2

[By Chit Estella]

[Text] The Philippines will align itself with the United States in implementing the steps to be taken to solve the problems in the Middle East, President Aquino said yesterday.

Commenting on the evolving security arrangement in the Gulf region as contained in the message delivered by U.S. President George Bush before the American Congress, Mrs. Aquino said: "The Philippines supports the initiative shown by the United States in finding a solution to the problems of the Middle East."

"We hope this will be supported not only by the United Nations but also by the states in the region," she added.

In throwing its support behind the U.S., however, the President stressed that the Philippines intends to keep its friendly ties with all countries in the Gulf region.

"The Philippines maintains friendly relations with all the countries involved and recognizes the need to find lasting peace among them," she said.

Last week, the Cabinet cluster on political affairs and security met to assess the implications of the end of the Gulf war on the Philippines.

National Security Director Rafael ILeto said the meeting took note of the changing alliances within the region and the effects of these on the country, specifically on the government's problem in Mindanao.

He said the Philippine decision to side with Saudi Arabia and the allied forces has generated goodwill among Muslim nations which could be translated into support in the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC—ICO].

The government is engaged in a diplomatic contest with the Moro National Liberation Front in the OIC where the latter is trying to seek membership.

Editorial Criticizes Support

HK1103104291 Quezon City MALAYA in English 11 Mar 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Wrong Choice of Words"]

[Text] Many may have been puzzled by President Aquino's statement throwing the country's support behind the U.S. "initiative" in finding a solution to the problems of the Middle East.

Mystification was further deepened when she added she also hopes the initiative "will be supported not only by the United Nations but also by the states in the region."

As an afterthought, she added that "the Philippines maintains friendly relations with all the countries involved and recognizes the need to find lasting peace among them."

What was she talking about?

The statement issued by the Palace said Mrs. Aquino was reacting to the evolving security arrangement contained in the message delivered by U.S. President George Bush before the U.S. Congress.

She was probably referring to Bush's declaration Wednesday that "the time has come to put an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict" and that the U.S. would do its utmost "in closing the gap between Israel and the Arab states, and between Israelis and the Palestinians."

It was a sketchy reference to U.S. post-war intentions in an address mainly devoted to self-congratulations in routing Iraq's Saddam Husayn.

Bush's position indeed marks a watershed in U.S. foreign policy towards the Middle East. The U.S. has apparently shed its blind support for Israel and has now come to recognize the legitimate interests of the Palestinians and the other Arab states.

The U.S., at last, has moved closer to the UN position on a number of Middle East issues, not the least among them the Palestinian question.

The proper word for Mrs. Aquino was perhaps "welcome," for supporting the belated U.S. enlightenment can only mean a retrogression in the Philippine position. Before the Gulf war, the U.S., acting as Israel's big brother, had been the single biggest stumbling block to the implementation of the UN resolutions on Palestine. The Philippines, in contrast, has recognized the Palestinians' right to a homeland. The Philippines has even gone to the extent of extending de facto recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organization as their legitimate government.

Easy enough to understand the government's need to ride on the U.S. and the allied victory over Iraq's Saddam. We must join the parade in order to secure a place, even at the tailend, in the queue for contracts and jobs in the reconstruction of Kuwait. But can't we at least maintain our dignity? We can applaud the U.S. for coming to its senses. But let us reserve our support, however, puny it is, to concrete programs to bring peace into the Middle East.

Aquino Says Gulf War End To Boost Economy

HK1103053691 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 11 Mar 91 pp 1, 9

[Text] Iloilo city—President Aquino yesterday said the ending of the Gulf war would help the country's economy, but the country must prove to major aid donors that it can use their assistance effectively.

"We think that the economy will now move towards real growth because for a while, with the Gulf war, we were really having very serious problems," the President told the Iloilo provincial government and military officials during the opening of the annual national sports meet.

Mrs. Aquino said the economic growth would be underpinned by a new loan agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and a $3.3-billion aid package pledged by the World Bank, Japan, and United States and other major donors under the Philippine Aid Plan (PAP).

"It is now up to us to show them that we are really deserving of this assistance by making sure that all the projects funded by this assistance will be implemented very well," she said.

Previous bottlenecks that had caused delays in using pledged funds from donors had been removed, she said. She forecast that with reduced threats from right-wing army rebels and the communist guerrilla movement, foreign investments and the tourism industry would pick up.

The President called for continued support for her government, although she has decided not to run for a second term in elections scheduled for May next year.

"I hope you will continue supporting my administration," she said. "There are just 480 days left, but we intend to fast track all of the programs and projects that are double, especially for this year."

Mrs. Aquino urged the local officials not to be "distracted by the election fever because we owe it to our people to continue serving them and the best way we can do that is to support and help each other."

In return, the President assured the officials that her administration was working for the approval of the local autonomy code that would decentralize national government power and allow local government units to impose certain taxes.

With the end of the Gulf war, the government's economic managers have projected a 2.5% increase in the real gross national product (GNP) for 1991, against an earlier forecast of 1.5%.

The Gulf crisis affected the Philippines severely, pushing up the cost of oil imports and cutting remittances from Filipino workers in the Gulf. There has been a decrease in exports to the U.S., which is in recession.

Central Bank Gov. Jose Cuisia said on Thursday a decline in Philippine domestic interest rates, the bullish performance of the stock market and a current stable exchange rate were all indications of growing confidence in the economy.

Cuisia said he hoped a new foreign investments bill awaiting Senate approval would improve the investment climate.

Army Chief Denies Operation Causes Deaths

HK0903035991 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Philippine Army Chief Lisandro Abadia announced today that the reported deaths of 74 children in Marag Valley due to military operations is just propaganda. Here is Josette Olivera with the details:

[Begin recording] Abadia said that Marag, a barangay in the town of Luna, Kalinga-Apayao, is a rebel infested area. This is why the military has launched an extensive counterinsurgency operation there. It was reported that more than 300 families, comprising about 2,000 people, evacuated Marag Valley due to intensified military operations against the communist rebels.

On the food blockade, Abadia said it is not true that the military has stopped the entry of food to Marag Valley, which allegedly caused the children to starve and die there. [end recording]

Protection of Mission Ordered

HK1103053091 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 11 Mar 91 p 18

[By Robert R. Requintina]

[Text] Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos instructed military commanders in Cagayan yesterday to ensure the safety of a mercy mission of multi-sectoral peace advocates that will visit Marag Valley in the boundary of Cagayan and Kalinga-Apayao where 74 children had died of various diseases as a result of military operations.

President Aquino had earlier ordered the Presidential Commission on Human Rights (PCHR) to look into the incident in compliance with the appeal of peace advocates.

Ramos said that the pease advocates will start their mission today until March 18.

The defense chief said that the mercy mission in the valley will be allowed without prejudice to the continuation of military operations against the New People's Army (NPA) rebels in the area.

During a meeting in Tuguegarao, Cagayan, Ramos was informed by military commanders that the communist rebels belonging to the Far North Luzon Committee (FNLC) have set up a provisional government in the are known as the "Rebolusyonaryong Bayan ng Marag." [Marag's revolutionary town].

Ramos deplored the establishment of a provisional government by the CPP [Communist Party of the Philippines]-NPA in Marag valley.

"We cannot alow another government to exist in the country even if it is only government for small barangays. The Constitution does not allow it neither do the people want it," Ramos said.

Ramos also welcomed and pledged support to the investigation of alleged human rights violations committed by the military operating in the valley.

Army Chief Suspects 'Sugar-Coated' Battle Reports

HK1103090291 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 10 Mar 91 pp 1, 6

[By Manny Mogato]

[Text] Hanubdabm Caouz—Military authorities here are rechecking field commanders' reports which may have been slanted to give the impression the government was winning the war against communist insurgency.

Army chief Maj. Gen. Lisandro Abadia said the military ordered the immediate revalidation of counterinsurgency assessment reports here following a series of successful communist rebel attacks on government targets in Surigao del Sur and Negros Occidental.

Military commanders, he said, had reported that certain parts of the countryside cleared of communist rebel control, but the recent attacks tended to contradict the reports. Such a situation, Abadia said, was anomalous.

"We can not tolerate a series of debacles," he added, saying there "must be something wrong in there."

He urged the commanders to refrain from reporting to have won over the people in a certain area, when they in fact could even not detect movements of very large rebel formations.

Three weeks ago, some 500 rebels attacked a government outpost in Surigao del Sur.

Last week, some 40 rebels attacked an army detachment and killed five soldiers in Sipalay, Negros Occidental. Sipalay is one of six towns reportedly cleared of rebel control and influence in 1990.

"We are only fooling ourselves," he told his field commanders during a command visit here. "Let us be honest and professional in reporting our accomplishments. I have observed that there were some 'false' reports."

Abadia has been visiting his units nationwide to assess their performance and explain the concepts of 'Lambat-Bitag' [Dragnet- Snare], the Armed Forces' battle plan against the two decades-old insurgency.

Abadia told the commanders there were enough reasons to file "sugar-coated" accomplishment reports on counterinsurgency operations, but these do not help the government defeat the insurgency.

Since early February, communist rebels have stepped up armed attacks and other activities in traditional bases and bailiwicks such as Southeast Mindanao, Western Visayas and Northern Luzon. Increasing rebel activities there showed there were some "errors" in the military field reports, Abadia said.

The armed forces earlier reported a 31% decline in rebel manpower, from 25,200 in 1988 to only 17,270 in 1990. It also reported a 40% decline in the number of barangay affected by the insurgency and the decrease in the number of guerrilla fronts or bases, from 72 in 1988 to 54 last year.

For 1990 alone, field units reported the dismantling of 10 guerrilla fronts. To counteract slanted reports, the military adopted a new system for measuring its effectiveness in destroying rebel fronts in September 1990. It included socio-economic and political indicators as a counter-check to reports of units in a given area. Current field reports are usually prepared by field commanders who always try to improve their image, as well as the records of their units.

"Tapos na ang ganyang sistema," [We are through with that system] Abadia said, and warned of punishing commanders caught "sugar-coating" their reports.

Senator Estrada Leaves Liberal Party

HK0803145991 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] The Pilipino Democratic Party-Lakas ng Bayan [Strength of the Nation] [PDP-Laban] will welcome Senator Joseph Estrada if he chooses to join that political party. Senator Aquilino Nene Pimentel, PDP-Laban president, said Estrada is most welcome to join his party. Estrada resigned from the Liberal Party [LP] because LP President Jovito Salonga is allegedly monopolizing authority over the party.

Meanwhile, here is an interview with Senator Joseph Erap Estrada:

[Begin recording] [Taruc] Will you please tell our listeners the reasons for your resignation from the LP.

[Estrada] Although it hurts me, I had to resign from the LP because I was opposed to the process through which candidates were chosen, which was not through a national convention. Last 8 January, Senate President Salonga asked me to go to his residence to sign a document, an agreement stating that he alone can select his vice president. The choices was between me and Senator Tito Guingona. I opposed this and did not sign the agreement because for me, that process was undemocratic. The participation of all the LP members should be sought. All the members should choose and not just one person.

[Taruc] Many were surprised by your decision to resign from the LP. Is that the only reason for your resignation or are there other reasons?

[Estrada] Well, that is the major reason. However, there are others, like that the party has no definite stand regarding the IMF. Another is that, similarly to the Struggle of Philippine Democrats party, where Speaker

Mitra is the president, when he declared his plan to run for president, he resigned as the party's president and turned over that position to Senator Neptali Gonzales. Senate President Salonga should have acted likewise—resigned as the party's president if he has plans to run as president of the Philippines, in fairness to everybody.

[Taruc] So, there is no possibility for your other colleagues to stop you from resigning, Mr. Senator?

[Estrada] I have already resigned and have signed my resignation. And that's it.

[Taruc] Do you have any party in mind to join.

[Estrada] I am planning to set up my own party. I will call this the Party of the Filipino Masses.

[Taruc] Are you receiving any invitations from other major political parties?

[Estrada] Yes. There have been many invitations for me from almost all the major political parties. They want me to run as their vice president.

[Taruc] Others say that you resigned from the Liberal Party because you wish to run for president and not just run for vice president.

[Estrada] If given the chance, I do want to become the president of the Republic of the Philippines because all our previous presidents were the same. They gave promises but our country is worsening. More and more people go down to the poverty level and almost everybody wants to leave the country because they can see that nothing seems to change here.

[Taruc] Senator, my colleague Cesar Chavez has a few questions to ask. Cesar, go ahead, please.

[Chavez] Senator, in my interview with Senator Aquilino Pimentel Jr., he said you are welcome to join the PDP-Laban. What can you say about this.

[Estrada] I thank Senator Nene Pimentel and I like the PDP- Laban platform. This party is a pro-poor and pro-Pilipino party. I will still have to think about this.

[Chavez] That party you wish to set up—the Party of the Filipino Masses, what will its platform be?

[Estrada] Its major platform will be to unite the Filipino people, because in our country's history, it is only now that we have become fragmented. There is the Moro National Liberation Front, the New People's Army, military rebels, leftists, rightists, and loyalists. If we are not united, even if we have democracy, we will end up badly. So, what is needed is to unite the Filipinos so that whatever economic plans we have, we can implement them smoothly. Second is to have genuine sovereignty, because while the military bases are here, we cannot say we have genuine independence because the U.S. military bases are symbols of our subservience to the United States. Third is to grant total amnesty to all so that we can start anew. Then we will apply the law in full force; rich or poor, when they commit an offense, they will be punished. Unlike now: Robbers abound, yet none is locked up in jail. So, we will first go after the big fish; the little ones will be dealt with later.

[Chavez] Mr. Senator, some observers and political analysts suspect you might be given a hard time in the Senate for having no party affiliation. Are you bothered about losing your committee chairmanship in the senate?

[Estrada] I am not bothered at all because when I joined the LP, I did not asked them for anything. I joined the LP without any consideration and the Senate president can attest to this.

[Chavez] Some people say that you are also a traditional politician because you came from the Grand Alliance for Democracy, then you transferred to the LP and now you will form the Party of the Filipino Masses. Can you clarify this?

[Estrada] Yes, that should be clarified. My first party affiliation was to the LP. When I was a mayor, I was independent and was the only Metro Manila mayor who maintained his independence, even at the time when the New Society Movement was riding high. So, during the snap polls, my candidates were Kalaw for vice president and President Marcos. [sentence as heard] The Grand Alliance is an umbrella organization. It includes the Nacionalista Party, the LP and independents. I am one of the independents. The Grand Alliance is not a party. [end recording]

Thailand

Anan Stresses Mutual Trust With Military

BK0903020391 Bangkok THE NATION in English 9 Mar 91 p A1

[By Piyanat Siwalo]

[Text] Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun yesterday stressed the importance of having "100 per cent" mutual trust with the military council, and said that so far their working relationship has been good.

In a tape-recorded interview for the Sonthana Panha Baanmuang (Talks on the Country's Problems) show to be aired over army-run channel 5 Sunday night, the prime minister said if the National Peacekeeping Council (NPKC) suspected that he had anything up his sleeve, then he would elect to resign from his post.

Anan said he had not set any conditions for his acceptance of the premiership and the NPKC did not either.

"We have got to trust each other completely, 100 per cent. As long as I am holding the office, I must feel comfortable. If the military don't trust me and suspects that I would stab them in the back, then I would step down," he said amid rumours that he had had a disagreement with the military over the timing of the release of ex-premier Gen Chatchai Chunhawan and the lifting of martial law.

Anan had earlier said he expected Chatchai's release after his Cabient was formed, but later he toned down his statement saying that it was the responsibility of the NPKC to decide when to free the former premier. In the upcoming interview, he denied that there was any disagreement with the military over the lifting of martial law.

"There is no question about the principle that it will be lifted as soon as possible, but this is a practical problem. If martial law was lifted right now, (security) problems left over (from Chatchai's fall) may arise. It's for the military council to decide on the practical timing of the abrogaton," he said.

"We started working with mutual trust and comprehension. Of course, I have some ideas of my own which will not be insincere manoeuvrings," he added.

The premier said that he would exercise his judgement as to which matters he would raise for consultation with the NPKC and which would be decided by the Cabinet.

"I am sure that the NPKC will do the same thing. This is a matter of consultative styles and we did not set any specific rules as to when I should consult the council and when I can act on my own," he said.

He said he foresaw no problems with some NPKC leaders sitting in his Cabinet, adding that the Cabinet members would work as one.

Anan said he was happy that he had encountered no problems in his consultations with the military leaders so far because none harboured any grudge against the other.

"We said he was happy that he had encountered no problems in his consultations with the military leaders so far because none harboured any grudge against the other.

"We can speak our minds and there are no secrets between us. And I think so long as we can maintain this kind of working relationship, the caretaker Cabinet would be able to perform its duties effectively," said the former diplomat who turned businessman before he was handpicked by the military as interim premier.

Anan also joked on the irony of his life, relating his past conflict with the military when he pushed for the American pullout in the seventies, reportedly to the discontent of the military.

"I was seen as being hostile to the military and the military also allegedly disliked me. I am not sure who hates whom now," he said.

The premier said he believed the military junta was sincere over its pledge to restore democracy after the interim period which will be between six and 14 months.

"I believe they are sincere. It (the pledge) is not just a tactic," he said.

The decision by the junta to name a civilian like him as caretaker prime minister was the first step towards the goal, he said.

But he said that although the quality of Thai MPs was still not good enough, he was not sure whether the elected representatives had been given an adequate chance to improve themselves.

"My opinion is that we have to establish a strong rule that the general election will definitely be held every three or four years. There must be no doubts (on the continuity of democracy) and this younger generation to take an interest in politics," he said.

Anan said that despite the flaws in the democratic system, there is no better alternative to the political system.

On the economic agenda, the prime minister said that infrastructure projects should be allowed to take off immediately if the contracts had been signed and that those which had yet to be signed would require exigent attention from the Cabinet.

"We will review the latter projects without any delay," he said.

His caretaker government will promote competition and other principles of a liberal economy while stabilizing the financial situation and exercising discipline on budgetary spending.

The government will also stick to the policy of decentralizing the nation's wealth to the less developed rural areas and narrow the income disparity between the rich and the poor as well as conserving the national environment, he said.

On top of this, the Cabinet must live up to the public expectation of its integrity and honesty, he added.

"The image of the members of this caretaker Cabinet is their interity. But we have to warn ourselves time and again that we cannot stay idle, indulging in complacency, because the people will be keeping a close watch on our performance in the next six months," he said.

Anan also said that he would assign his three deputies—Sano Unakun, Pol Gen Phao Sarasin and Michai Ruchuphan—to screen the paperwork submitted by ministers with portfolios for deliberation by the Cabinet.

He said, that before every Cabinet meeting, a committee comprising a smaller group of Cabinet members would carefully screen the proposals on the agenda and work out recommendations for him.

Spokesman Remarks on Martial Law, Constitution

BK0903103891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1028 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Bangkok, Mar 9 (AFP)—Thailand is to remain under martial law until the interim government headed by Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun and the military junta complete a new constitution, a military spokesman said here Saturday.

The spokesman quoted junta leader Supreme Commander General Sunthon Khongsomphong as saying martial law would remain in force until the military-appointed government "completes its drafting of the new constitution and begins to organize general elections."

In a bid to restore normalcy, the generals, who seized power on February 23, Saturday released deposed Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan, who had been arrested while the coup was in progress.

The military has earlier announced that a new democratic constitution would be promulgated within six months and elections subsequently held late this year or early next year.

Martial law currently in force prohibits political gatherings of more than five people.

Pending a new constitution, the military has also drafted an interim charter giving the junta sweeping emergency powers to control opposition and crack down on corruption.

Gen. Sunthon was quoted as saying martial law will not be lifted until the junta is certain that all "untoward political movements" have ceased to exist.

Though he did not identify the anti-junta movements or elaborate on a date for the end of martial law, Gen. Sunthon said it "would not be in force during the elections."

Military's Role in Interim Assembly Viewed

BK1103014791 Bangkok THE NATION in English 11 Mar 91 p A1

[By Ophat Bunlom]

[Text] Army Commander in Chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun said yesterday an interim National Assembly to be formed this week would comprise "many" senior military officers.

"There is a need to keep peace and order in the country," said Suchinda, deputy leader of the National Peacekeeping Council (NPKC), which seized power from the Chatchai government on Feb 23, when asked about the presence of military men in the legislative body.

The NPKC abolished the 1978 Constitution and adopted a provisional one that requires an interim National Assembly be established to draft a permanent Constitution.

Article 7 of the provisional Constitution states that the interim National Assembly comprise at least 200 members, but no more than 300 members, appointed by His Majesty the King at the recommendation of NPKC chairman Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong, the military supreme commander.

Suchinda said Sunthon would nominate National Assembly members this week.

"We are in the process of selecting members. I think the National Assembly can be formed this week," the army chief said.

Suchinda said he did not know how many people would be appointed to the assembly.

He said the interim National Assembly would be like the Senate, which consisted of people who are considered politically non-aligned.

"We had many soldiers in the Senate," Suchinda noted.

The interim legislative body is to appoint a committee, comprising no more than 20 persons, to draft a permanent Constitution to be considered by the assembly.

A Chat Thai member yesterday doubted that the interim National Assembly could produce a democratic Constitution as members of the body would not be elected by the people.

"The political situation in our country now doesn't allow free expression of opinions," said former Chachoengsao MP [member of parliament] Chaturon Chaisaeng. "It will be very difficult to make a Constitution drafted under these conditions a democratic one."

A student activist recently urged the NPKC to hold a nationwide referendum to see whether the public would endorse the new Constitution.

—Piyanat Watcharaphon, deputy leader of the Solidarity Party, vowed yesterday to boycott the next general election if the new Constitution bars MPs from assuming ministerial posts.

Military leaders have floated an idea of separating the executive and legislative branches.

"I will become a writer" if MPs cannot become ministers, Piyanat said.

Interim Government Holds First Meeting

BK0903022991 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 9 Mar 91 p 3

[Text] The interim government during the next nine months wil focus attention on security, social and economic problems, Prime Minister's Office Minister Michai Wirawaithaya said yesterday.

Mr Michai said after the first meeting of all the new Cabinet ministers that Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun told the Cabinet they had very little time and must work hard and late into the night.

"The Prime Minister said that we must use the time in each day to the utmost value. We shouldn't accept lunch and dinner invitations and may have to eat while we work. Some of us may also have to sleep at the Government House to finish our work. I may be one of those who will have to sleep here," Mr Michai said.

He said that such work methods would show that each minister was "fully in charge".

Mr Michai said the Cabient would meet every Tuesday as usual and representatives of the National Peacekeeping Council [NPKC] would join the Cabinet meeting on some issues. No fixed NPKC representative have been named.

"The Prime Minister said that he has been able to work well with the NPKC and there is no problem," Mr Michai said.

He said the new Cabinet ministers would be ready to declare their assets 340 days after an announcement to this effect is issued.

"We are all glad to comply with this so as to eliminate the areas where we may be attacked. The working philosophy of this administration, as the Prime Minister has said today, is to do real work based on honesty because we have all taken the Royal Oath," Mr Michai said.

Deputy Prime Minister Michai Ruchuphan said the Cabinet had agreed that Deputy Premier Sano Unakun would be responsible for the eocnomy, with Deputy Premier Pol Gen Pho Sarasin taking charge of security and foreign affairs. Mr Michai himself would be responsible for social and legal affairs.

Mr Michai said the Caninet would meet on Monday to consider the Government's policies. Asked if the Prime Minister was concerned about anything in particular, Mr Michai said Mr Anan liked to work with facts, like the private sector, and everyone on the team would have to understand this.

Deputy Prime Minister Sano Unakun said his responsiblity for economic affairs would involve the Finance, Commerce, Industry, Agriculture, Communications and Science Ministries. He would also be involved with the Budget Bureau, National Economic and Social Develpopment Board, Board of Investment, and energy affairs.

Former Prime Minister Chatchai Released 9 Mar

BK0903060791 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 0515 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Former Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan, who was detained at a guest house in the Kantarat Meeting Hall at Don Muang Airport, was released this morning after being detained for 14 nights and 15 days. This morning, General Sunthon Khongsomphong, chairman of the National Peacekeeping Assembly, General Suchinda Khraprayun, Admiral Praphat Kritsanachan, Air Chief Marshal Kaset Rotchananin, and Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun had breakfast with General Chatchai and his close aides who were also under detention.

General Chatchai said that he has washed his hands of politics. He will travel to Switzerland for a rest.

[Begin recording] [Chatchai] Nothing. Today I just... We share the same opinions on several, four or five, problems which must be solved as the supreme commander said earlier. During my time in office, I tried to solve them through parliamentary means, but it was rather difficult. So, I believe that the problems now facing Thailand will be solved. The prime minister will be able to solve them.

[Unidentified reporter] Do you plan to...

[Chatchai, interrupting] Me? I have not yet made a decision on whether I will stay in Thailand or go somewhere else. I have washed my hands of politics. I am no longer the party leader. Also, I have resigned from the Chat Thai Party. I am already 71 years old. I should stop.

[Unidentified reporter] What is the reaction from the Chat Thai Party?

[Chatchai] I have not met with them because it is against the law.

[Unidentified reporter] Will you go home for a rest today?

[Chatchai] Yes, I will.

[Unidentified reporter] When will you leave for Switzerland.

[Chatchai] I have not yet decided. We must congratulate the Thai people for having a capable prime minister. [laughter] I would like to thank the supreme commander and the Air Force commander for allowing me to live well. I could jog everyday.

[Unidentified reporter] What will be the future of Thai politics?

[Chatchai] There will be no problem. Everything is ok, better than before. [end recording]

General Chatchai's entourage left the guest house at about 1000 and went to have an audience with the supreme patriarch at Bonwonniwet Temple. He returned home to his Ratchakhru residence at 1100.

Athit Released

BK0903140091 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] General Athit Kamlang-ek has been released after 14 days under detention. After his release, he went to Bowonniwet Temple to see the supreme patriach for about 15 minutes, after which he returned to his home in Mansin Two Lane, Bangkok. Gen. Athit said he did not expect to be allowed to return home today and, therefore, was pleased with the freedom. He said he was well taken care of during detention. He has not fixed a date for a visit to the UK, where he hoped to go for about seven days for business reasons before returning to Bangkok.

[Begin recording] [Athit] I expected that I would have to be released some day because I did nothing wrong. I was just merely carrying out my duties in a straightforward manner. As the takeover of power occurred, it was good that I was given protection. It was normal that they would have to give me protection. I was well taken care of during the period.

[Unidentified reporter] When do you plan to go to the United Kingdom?

[Athit] Not right away, I may go there for a short time, maybe seven days to visit the children.

[Unidentified reporter] When?

[Athit] I have not set a date yet; I will have to get the business here settled first. [end recording]

Gen. Athit said he would return to politics if the situation improved and that he never desired to gain any political posts.

[Begin Athit recording] As far as I am concerned, I may or may not return politics. I felt that my being in the political circle was to help serve the country; there were no other motives. Therefore, I can accept an instruction on whether or not I must stop political participation. That is up to the people to decide whether they still want me, or whether my colleagues in political circles want my participation. That is to be decided in the future. [end recording]

Gen. Athit denied that the bruise on his right cheek was a result of any beating.

Interior Minister on Release

BK0903142291 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Interview by General Itsaraphong Nunphakdi, Interior Minister and Secretary General of the National Peacekeeping Assembly, to unidentified reporters on 9 March; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Were there any conditions on the release of General Chatchai?

[Itsaraphong] There were no conditions. We did not detain him. The National Peacekeeping Council [NPKC] invited him to stay at a safe place, for fear that certain groups might claim that they were committing some untoward acts on his behalf. Gen. Chatchai and Gen. Athit already told you reporters that their administration was unable to tackle the country's problems and that they agreed that the NPKC action was correct and timely. That will be all for today.

[Reporter] One more question please. Gen. Chatchai's remarked that he would not engage in any political activities. Was that his own idea?

[Itsaraphong] You heard it yourself, didn't you. It has to be his own idea. We respect him. It is all his own idea. No one forced him.

[Reporter] Can you comment on the remarks of the National Peacekeeping Assembly chairman yesterday about untoward activities? What preparations has the Interior Ministry made?

[Itsaraphong] The Interior Ministry has received no reports about untoward activities. If there are, existing measures by the police and the Capital Security Command are sufficient to cope with them. There is no need for concern.

Chatchai To Leave for Switzerland

BK1103023791 Bangkok THE NATION in English 11 Mar 91 p A1

[By Piyanat Siwano]

[Text] Former prime minister Chatchai Chunhawan has decided to leave for Switzerland tomorrow for a "vacation" of unspecified length because he was concerned that he might be linked to alleged underground activities in the wake of his fall from power, a Chat Thai Party member said yesterday.

Chaturon Chaisang, a former Chachoengsao MP [member of parliament] said Chatchai wanted to show the military which toppled him in a coup on Feb 23 that he did not want to create political unrest or disturbances here.

"He wants the political situation to remain peaceful so he had decided to go to Switzerland," Chaturon said.

Chatchai, who was arrested when the coup was staged, was released by his military captors on Saturday along with close aides and former assistant defence minister Gen Athit Kamlang-ek.

Shortly before Chatchai was freed, Supreme Commander Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong, who led the coup, said Chatchai's release would be "unconditional", but warned that the ex-prime minister must not do anything that would make military leaders feel "uncomfortable".

Sunthon did not clarify his warning or link it to his previous claims that underground elements were trying to create unrest in the country by various means including attempting to assassinate military leaders.

Former government spokesman Suwit Yotmani told THE NATION yesterday that Chatchai was going to Switzerland of his own free will.

"He said he wanted to go, and there was no pressure from either the NPKC (National Peacekeeping Council) or the (caretaker) government," Suwit said.

Chatchai did not say when he would come back, Suwit said.

Caretaker Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun said on Saturday Chatchai's planned stay in Switzerland would not affect the current investigation into corruption charges against him and 24 other politicians.

Suwit, one of Chatchai's close aides, has been appointed deputy secretary-general to Anan. The former government spokesman met Chatchai on Saturday to inform him of his appointment.

"He told me not to worry. He said he supports this new government himself," Suwit said.

Chatchai said after his release that he would leave political life altogether and that he had resigned as leader of Chat Thai Party.

Visitors continued to stream into Chatchai's Soi Ratchakhru residence a day after his release. Among them were members of the Chat Thai Party and key members of other political parties.

Deputy Finance Minister Wiraphong Ramangkun and Bank of Thailand Governor Wichit Suphinit also visited the Soi Ratchakhru residence.

Gen Athit, meanwile, refused to give further press interview while visiting the Emerald Buddha Temple yesterday. He said he planned to go to another temple today "for a peaceful state of mind".

Athit, who is leader of Puangchon Chao Thai Party, has been noncommittant about his political future.

Gen Athit said after his release on Saturday that he would go to England for a brief vacation.

Chaturon said though Chatchai and Athit wanted to show their "sincerity" in announcing plans to go overseas, their trips would have a negative effect on Thailand's image.

"It will be difficult to explain to foreigners why the two have to leave the country," Chaturon aid.

International pressure had built up for Chatchai's release before the military decided to free him.

Minister Receives UK, PRC, Australian Envoys

BK1103065391 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Text] According to Sakthai Krairoek, Foreign Ministry spokesman, this morning the PRC, Australian, and UK ambassadors called on Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin to congratulate him on his appointment as foreign minister and to express pleasure at the release of former Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan, which they regarded as a good and appropriate step toward democracy that would be achieved after formation of the civilian government and an election in accordance with the steps pledged by the National Peacekeeping Council.

The three ambassadors also confirmed that their countries' assistance, cooperation, and good relations with Thailand will continue. In particular, the Australian assistance for the bridge project across the Mekong River will not change and additional assistance will also be considered.

The PRC ambassador emphasized promotion of visits by senior officials to enhance good bilateral relations and understanding. President Yang Shangkun will make a visit to Thailand, according to the ambassador.

The UK ambassador expressed satisfaction with the actions already taken toward restoring democracy in Thailand and said he was willing to explain the issue to his government and the British people.

Sakthip said Asa informed the ambassadors that Thai foreign policy will remain unchanged. In particular, Thailand will cooperate with other countries, including the permanent members of the UN Security Council, in the settlement of the Cambodian problem. The foreign minister asked the ambassadors to help explain the situation in Thailand to their people. He also asked the UK ambassador to consider hiring Thai workers for the restoration of Kuwait.

Interior Minister Warns 'Godfather-Type Tycoons'

BK0903021791 Bangkok THE NATION in English 9 Mar 91 p A3

[By Prakopphong Phanaphun]

[Text] Interior Minister Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi yesterday warned "godfather-type" tycoons to stop their illegal activities or face "special measures" that will be adopted by the authorities as needed.

He said that Interior permanent secretary Charoenchit na Songkhla and Police Director General Pol Gen Sawat Amonwiwat had been instructed to summon certain influential "godfathers" to tell them to "behave themselves".

"The permanent secretary and the police will handle the matter," said Itsaraphong, who is also deputy army chief, adding that, "They are consulting each other as to when to summon them."

The minister said that the Interior Ministry has a list of tycoons nationwide but added that only the wellknown ones would be called to the meetings.

"They will be asked to stop their illegal activities. If they refuse to comply with our request, they may face drastic legal action or probably special measures," he said. Itsaraphong did not elaborate on the special measures.

But the minister said that most of those on the blacklist had already disavowed their illegal ways of business and had turned to legal practices.

"There are now only a handful godfathers left in this country," he said.

Pol Gen Sawat, meanwhile, told reporters that the Police Department would try to avoid exercising the powers of the National Peacekeeping Council (NPKC) in dealing with those tycoons who resist the order.

"We will try to use the powers of normal laws," he said.

But he added that Article 27 of the provisional constitution, which empowers the NPKC council leader or the prime minister to take any drastic action, might have to be exercised if there was a need to avoid violence.

—Interior Minister Itsaraphong said yesterday an office under the permanent secretray will be set up to implement a new system which will effectively evaluate the performance of ministry officials.

Government officials have often complained that performance is relegated to the third place promotions are considered. The criteria are often based mostly on a combination of favouritism and seniority.

Gen Itsaraphong also said the upcoming new constitution will prevent Cabinet members and politicans from "harassing" government officials by restricting their power to influence the promotion of officials.

He said he would delegate authority to the permanent secretary to carry out the day-to-day operations of the ministry under his guidance.

"The permanent secretary will be empowered to decide on his own how to go about getting jobs done while I will oversee policy matters," Itsaraphong said.

The minister, commenting on anti-military activities among certain groups of students, said he had not been officially informed of such movements but that he would personally explain to them why the power seizure by the military was necessary.

The military council said they believed "disgruntled elements" had been behind the anti-military movements.

The minister reiterated that his priority would be to ensure a free and fair election organized by the interim goverment within 14 months.

Itsaraphong said the Interior Ministry would stamp out the practice of vote-buying through close monitoring as well as an awareness campaign to educate eligible voters to base their choice of representatives on qualifications.

"The Interior Ministry will ensure fairness to all political parties in the next general election," he said.

However, the minister said measures to counter money-for-votes electioneering will be part of the permanent constitution which has yet to be formulated by the national assembly.

Noting that the government is an interim administration, the minister said he would introduce only short-term and concrete policies and concentrate his efforts on solving the immediate problems.

He cited as an example traffic congestion, which he said could be relieved by taking stringent punitive action against violators of traffic regulations.

Antigraft Committee Anticipates 'Some Difficulty'

BK1003012491 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 10 Mar 91 p 3

[Text] The National Peace-keeping Council's anti-graft committee expects some difficulty probing the wealth of 25 former Cabinet members because some may already have transferred their assets to foreign bank accounts, according to committee chief Gen Sit Chirarot.

It could be difficult obtaining information from foreign banks for the inquiry, he said yesterday.

The committee has yet to find a solution to the problem, which requires international involvement by the Government or the Bank of Thailand.

Gen Sit, asked if the problem will delay the investigation, said jokingly that perhaps he will die before the probe is completed. The committee will, however, speed up its investigation for completion as soon as possible.

During yesterday's three-hour meeting at the Counter Corruption Commission office, the committee considered details of several issues, including measures "which might sound scary" if elaborated on, he said.

Children and wives of those targeted by the committee could be included in the probe if there are complaints or evidence they have unusual wealth or that they have transferred their assets, Gen Sit said.

Gen Sit, asked if the committee's investigation will be affected if ex-premier Gen Chatchai Chunhawan goes abroad, said this will have no impact because the committee will consider only evidence it has already obtained.

The committee yesterday received a letter from a politician asking for the release of part of his frozen assets. The letter detailed the politician's daily necessary expenses.

Gen Sit said the committee had approved the request in principle and will advise banks to issue cheques for the politician as requested.

There may be more such requests, which the committee will consider case by case, he said, adding everyone will be treated fairly.

Gen Sit said he had 11 letters in the last two days giving details of projects suspected of involving corrupt practices. However, the letters gave no specific details.

Letters to the committee should provide specific details about suspected corruption schemes or else they will be a burden for the committee, he said.

Panelists Encourage Openness in New Government

BK1103020191 Bangkok THE NATION in English 11 Mar 91 pp A1, A2

[From the Business Desk]

[Text] The new government's decision-making process should be made "completely transparent" to the public to serve as a precedent for openness in democratically-elected governments in the future, penelists at a roundtable organized by THE NATION over the weekend said.

The suggestion appeared to attract the strong interest of Deputy Prime Minister Dr Sano Unakun, who was present at the roundtable.

The panelists said the way the interim government, formed by Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun last Wednesday [6 January], conducted its affairs in the next six months would prove crucial to the future of the democratic system.

Other panelists at the roundtable were Dr Bunyarak Ninsanon of the National Economic and Social Development Board, Dr Amma Siamwanla, president of the Thailand Development Research Institute, Rangsun

Thanaphonphun and Niphon Poaphongsakon, both of Thammasat University, and Wichai Siprasoet of Riceland International Co. The topic of discussion was "Economic Management: Decision-Making and Accountability".

The question of the accountability of the Anan government was repeatedly brought up by the roundtable participants. Is the new government accountable to the military, the conscience of individual ministers, the people or the press?

"First, it has to be our conscience and then the public. If we do something wrong the public could take us to task later. Accountability means the system must be fully open. We must be able to explain everything we do," Sano answered.

For a period of 6-14 months until a general election, the government's responsibilities to the public will largely centre on the collective judgements of the technocrat-oriented Cabinet.

It was the technocrat-dominated second and third cabinets of Gen Prem Tinsulanon which panelists said had managed to lay the rules and standards of decision-making procedures to check and balance vested interests and coordinate development projects.

But these rules and standards began to erode in the Prem IV and V administrations and took a total about turn in the Chatchai government as politicians emerged to take full control of decision- making. The most noticeable result was the way in which each of the Cabinet members was allowed to initiate his own projects—many of which were not subject to proper scrutiny to determine whether they were in the nation's best interest.

The three mass transit projects approved by the former Chatchai government were cited as examples.

All three, namely the second-stage expressway, the Din Daeng-Don Muang tollway, and the Hopewell elevated-train project, were separately planned by individual agencies with little or no coordination. The result was that these projects happened to overlap each other.

The panelists were also critical of the way the last government approved massive investment into the project to expand the country's telephone system by three million lines based on just a few pages of sketchy details.

Against this backdrop and the need to create a better decision-making system, each of the panelists was asked to make a summary:

Amma Siamwanla: The interim government should not deal with "substance" but rather to set a long-term framework for the development of the economy. Project evaluations and procedures must be made clear and there should be public hearings on them. Total "transparency" is a must. An office ought to be set up with power to demand documents for scrutiny on all relevant issues, such as the Board of Investment's granting of promotional privileges to hotels or the granting of licences for asphalt factories.

Niphon Poaphongsakon: The new government will not have enough time to amend many of the laws but commissions could be set up to study various projects and make systematic recommendations.

Wichai Siprasoet: Accountability is very important. What will happen if the decisions of the government go against the wishes of the military junta? The situation is very precarious.

Bunyarak Ninsanon: We should remain optimistic. The military is fully aware of international pressure. The United States has suspended aid and Japan is maintaining pressure on Thailand to restore the democratic process. Military officials are well aware of the implications on the stock market as many of them invest in stocks also.

Rangsun Thanaphonphun: Systems for approving major projects must be made very clear. All the documents must be available for public review. This will help "protect" subsequent governments. Laws must be more precise and specifics written down on what ministers or civil servants can do and cannot do. (Openness) is a must. (Sano replied that he may neither have the time nor resources to do this).

On agriculture, panelist Niphon said the rural sector was often left behind in national development so there should be an effective mechanism to listen to rural voices and help solve their problems.

The formation of the proposed Agriculture Council was supported by Sano and other panelists as a possible means to achieve the objective. The Agriculture Council Act was originally due in Parliament this May before the legislative body was dissolved in the aftermath of the coup. A suggestion was that the second best option would be to employ non-governmental organizations in the short term.

The panelists said something had to be done to improve the parliamentary system, which one panelist described as "unproductive" given that legislators met only three months a year.

All the panelists supported a proposal to limit the terms of elected kamnan (tambon leaders) to two four-year terms, after which they would not be permitted to run for re-election. The system of electing kamnan is one of Thailand's experiments with democracy at the grass-roots level.

The panelists also called for tax reform to spread out income more evenly among the people and said local authorities ought to be empowered to spend revenue from local taxes.

Sano, the former secretary general of the National Economic and Social Development Board, indicated that projects which the government had not committed itself to yet would be reviewed.

"Where commitments have already been made, we'll have to respect the contracts to preserve government credibility," he said.

Panelists also agreed that the caretaker government should lay the proper groundwork to tackle infrastructure problems while the country continues to try sustaining its economic growth.

On the environment, the participants agree that the last year-end conference organized by the Thailand Development Reseach Institute which called for greater environmental protection should [serve] as a platform on which the government could pursue its efforts.

Sano also said the value-added tax system ought to be able to be implemented by this government while the Board of Investment should undergo reform to make it more service-oriented to industry.

15 Student Demonstrators Formally Charged

BK0903040091 Bangkok THE NATION in English 9 Mar 91 p A2

[Text] Public prosecutors yesterday formally charged the 15 Ramkamhaeng University students who were arrested for defying a National Peacekeeping Council [NPKC] ban on political gatherings following the military coup.

Prosecutor Amnat Muthithacharoen charged them in the North Bangkok District Court with having violated the NPKC's 7th announcement banning political rallies, the offence carrying a maximum of six months in jail or a fine of Bt [Baht] 10,000 or both.

Squads of police from Hua Mak, Sutthisan, Makkasan and Prachachun police stations accompanied the students to the court which later approved their requests for bail.

All of the students were set bail of Bt10,000 cash each. The court judge, Prachong Phanprasit, set April 10 this year for the first hearings.

The students denied the charges of defying the military ban on political gatherings.

Police arrested the students on Feb 25 when they staged a rally on the campus protesting the seizing or power by the NPKC, led by Supreme Commander Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong, from the elected government of Gen Chatchai Chunhawan on Feb 23.

Student Federation Urges End to Martial Law

BK1003023091 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 10 Mar 91 p 3

[Text] The Students's Federation of Thailand [SFT] has renewed its call for the military to lift martial law urgently and listen to public criticism without trying to restrict freedom of expression.

SFT president Saowani Chitruan also said the public should be allowed to express its view openly and widely now the situation has returned to normal. Opinions form students and other members of the public are well-intended.

She expressed concern over remarks by the military leaders that students have ulterior motives in their moves against military control of the country and claims students had received financial support from abroad.

Such remarks are "groundless" and obstruct freedom of expression, she said.

"The country now needs accurate information and freedom of expression. People should not be made to express opinions favouring any particular individuals or groups."

She said although the new Cabinet comprises people of high integrity and ability it cannot be accepted under democratic principles where people can exercise their rights.

"Individual ability is a different issue from true democracy," Saowani said.

Labor Figures Held for 'Improper' Materials

BK1003014091 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 10 Mar 91 p 3

[Text] Two labour research coordinators at a famous foundation for Thai workers were held in custody at the Internal Security Operations Command's Interrogation Centre on Setsiri Road yesterday.

They have reportedly been charged with possessing printed materials containing "improper" statements for the current situation in Thailand.

Furious civil libertarians have slammed the incident.

They were identified as Bandit Thamtrirath and Sukhon Khaekprayun.

The source said Bandit and Sukhon, who work for Arom Phongphangan Foundation were taken from their homes by special branch police yesterday morning.

Human rights lawyer Thongbai Thongpao who is vice chairman of the foundation said 10 special branch police arrived at Bandhit's house near Wat Bophit Phimuk School in Prom Prap District at around 3 a.m.

They stayed outside until 5 a.m. when they entered the house and asked to search his room.

After spending about two and half hours in the house, police took Bandit, a typewriter and about 100 envelopes with them.

Mr Thongbai said a police officer told a relative of Bandhit that no charge was filed against the researcher but they had just invited him for questioning.

A relative told Mr Thongbai that police did not handcuff the labour researcher.

Before leaving home he reportedly told his mother not to worry about him because he had not done anything wrong.

His relatives then followed Bandit to Special branch Office's 6th Sub-division but could not find him.

They later went to the ISOC headquarter but was told by an army officer at the front gate that no-one was taken there.

They later went to the ISOC's Interrogation Centre to see many people inside so they believed that bandit was held there.

Reacting to the arrest, Thammasat University Student Government leader Somkiat Chanthrasima called yesterday that Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun to urgently revoke military announcements which were against "human rights and freedom of expression." [sentence as published]

Mr Somkiat commented that one of the suspects, Bandit, was an outstanding academic who was an expert on labour affairs.

The man has been an active figure in the labour movement and was working for a privately-run Arom Phongphangan Foundation.

The arrest took place following his expression about the country's democratic development.

Because of the problem, Mr Somkiat called that the Prime Minister immediately do away with undemocratic announcements to enhance the freedom of expression.

Foreign Ministry To Improve Public Image

BK1003025091 Bangkok THE NATION in English 10 Mar 91 p A2

[By Kunlachada Chaiphipat]

[Text] In an effort to repair the damage done to Thailand's image following the military coup last month, the Foreign Ministry plans to launch a series of public relations campaigns, the ministry's spokesman Sakthip Krairoek told THE NATION yesterday.

Sakthip said the decision to carry out the campaigns was arrived at at the first meeting of senior officials chaired by the new Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin on Friday.

The meeting agreed that the campaigns must be launched as soon as possible to quickly rebuild Thailand's image as a democratic country and a haven for foreign investors.

The military coup against the civilian government headed by former Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan prompted an outcry from and strained ties with western countries and the United States which called for a return of power to an elected government as soon as possible.

Sakthip said the campaign would involve Asa meeting separately with both the foreign and Thai mass media, aside from regular interviews to explain the government's policies and the steps taken to hold a general election scheduled for April next year at the latest.

Sakthip said Asa will start the campaign with a meeting with Thai reporters at the Foreign Ministry on Monday, to be followed by one with Bangkok-based foreign diplomats on Tuesday.

The spokesman said Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun would contribute to the campaign later by hosting a banquet for the foreign diplomatic corps in Bangkok at Government House.

Part of the campaign would involve inviting foreign dignitaries and the foreign press to Bangkok to see for themselves how the interim government is working towards the return to full democracy, the spokesman said.

An informed source at the ministry said the first foreign guest the new minister is expected to receive will be US Assistant Secretry for the Far East and Pacific Affairs Richard Solomon to discuss both bilateral and regional issues. During the visit scheduled from March 16 to 18, he is expected to pay a courtesy call on the premier.

Asa told reporters on Thursday that he would have no time to travel abroad to introduce himself as the new foreign minister because much of the limited time the government has would be invested in tackling internal problems.

But since it is necessary to explain what is hapening in Thailand to other countries, Sakthip said Asa would assign senior officials to represent him.

"We have given our word and must follow up with deeds. That will be the core of our message to foreigners," Sakthip said.

Columnist: NPKC Disappointed by U.S. Reaction

BK1003102791 Bangkok LAK THAI in Thai 4-10 Mar 91 p 5

[From the "In Depth" column by "Khon Thuan"]

[Text] The world's leading newspapers described the recent power seizure in Thailand as the smoothest and cleanest coup ever carried out because it was staged by the entire armed forces and not by a particular military branch or clique. The U.S. reaction to it, however, has caused great disappointment within the National Peacekeeping Council [NPKC]. The United States not only suspended economic and military aid to Thailand, but it also accused some Thai military officers of being involved in drug trafficking in border areas.

The United States adopted such an attitude because high-level personalities at the U.S. Embassy have developed a close relationship with the Ban Phitsanulok advisers who had been spreading the news damaging the military all along.

In addition to reviewing security measures provided for the U.S. Embassy, Thailand has asked the United States to return the money allocated for the purchase of weapons plus interest. From now on Thailand will review all arms purchases from the United States.

Members of the Thai community in the United States believe the U.S. Government is trying to assert control over the Thai military as in the past. They are of the opinion that Thailand should adopt a tough stand.

U.S. Assistant Secretary's Visit Viewed

BK1103033191 Bangkok THE NATION in English 11 Mar 91 p A8

[By Athawibun Sisuworanan]

[Text] Thai-US ties are at a low point following last month's military coup d'etat. But relations are unlikely to be severely damaged because of both country's dependence on each other.

Thailand's relations with the United States reached an unprecedented low ebb soon after the military seized power in a coup d'etat last month. Even though officials in Washington insisted last week that the US administration wanted to maintain close ties with Bangkok, including those in security area, no one believes that Thailand will enjoy the close and friendly American contacts that it has had, at least not in the near future.

US Assistant Secretary of State for Far East and Pacific Affairs Richard Solomon is scheduled to arrive in Bangkok this weekend to discuss bilateral and regional issues. It is expected that the talks will lay out a new framework for cooperation between the two countries during the interim period pending general elections.

In a hearing of the US House of Representative East Asian and Pacific affairs subcommittee, Solomon said Thailand remained as much of a close friend and ally of the United States as ever. Deputy Assistant Defence Secretary Carl Ford reiterated at the same hearing that Washington would never seek to degrade the security relationship with Thailand. However, both officials urged the Thai military, which seized power on Feb 23, to return Thailand back on the democratic road as soon as possible.

Immediately after the coup the US administration cut off the $16.4 million in development and military assistance aid promised this year to Thailand. The aid cut was a symbolic gesture which reflected other Western countries' stand toward the coup. The 12-country European Community "deplored" it and Japan suspended talks on development aid it had allocated for Thailand.

But a clearer sign of the US position to the political change was delivered in Bangkok last week when US Ambassador to Thailand Daniel O'Donohue called on Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong, head of the National Peacekeeping Council (NPKC) and caretaker Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun. O'Donohue made it clear that there would be no resumption of aid until a democratically-elected government was back in power in Bangkok

A Bangkok-based US diplomat said privately that Washington was encouraged by the military junta giving administrative power to a civilian caretaker government during the transitional period and by the release of former prime minister Chatchai Chunhawan and his close aides. But he stressed that the move was just a "first step" in the right direction, and warned that Washington would carefully weigh whatever following steps were taken.

While the caretaker government and the private sector are coping with implications of the increased isolation on the Thai economy, Gen Suchinda Khraprayun, the army commander-in-chief and the "brains" behind the coup, shrugged off the international sanctions as minimal.

Nevertheless, the private sector is said to be worried a cool relationship between Bangkok and Washington could jeopardize the ongoing dialogue to resolve Thai-US trade disputes. They argue that the military-backed caretaker government might be easily compelled to succumb to US demands as Thailand no longer has "allies" in Washington who sympathize with Bangkok.

During a 2 1/2-year struggle with US industry and the Office of the US Trade Representative alleging unfair Thai trade practices, the previous government was successful in rallying sympathizers in the US Congress and some sections of the US administration when Thailand was threatened with severe retaliation under the "Special 301" section of the US Trade Act.

At the top of Thai concerns are allegations that Thailand has acted unfairly with trade barriers to US exports and inadequate intellectual property rights protection. Thailand is also anxious to see the US administration take a softer stand on several issues, including new textile and aviation agreements and import barriers under countervailing duty and anti-dumping measures that would curb Thai exports to the American market.

One of the most significant tactics on the Thai side was using the democratic consensus among the Thai public as a pretext to ward off retaliation. Preserving a democratic regime in Bangkok was also used as a successful reason, along with other mutual benefits such as fighting the narcotics trade, to prevent retaliation.

The dialogue between Bangkok and Washington ended last May with Washington agreeing to Thailand's request to have most of the disputes settled under the framework of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and to have the rest handled by a joint ministerial consultative body. The committee was co-chaired by US Secretary of Commerce Robert Mosbacher and former Commerce Minister Subin Pinkhayan.

The committee was to provide Thailand for the first time with a chance to negotiate with Washington about trade disputes in comprehensive talks, opening with Thailand's demand for a trade-off settlement instead of running on a case-by-case basis. But because of the coup, there is some uncertainty about the first meeting of the committee initially scheduled for earlier this year in Washington.

The private sector also fears that a stronger US negotiating position in the world community after the Gulf War would lead to more American demands in trade disputes. It was reported that Washington planned to put more pressure on Japan and the Asian "NIC's (Newly-Industrialized Countries) on outstanding trade disputes. Had the Asian economic powers succumbed to the demands, Thailand and other ASEAN countries hiding behind them would unavoidably have been the United States' next targets.

The visit by Richard Solomon this weekend will lend an opportunity for Washington and Bangkok to touch base on these issues. But a Foreign Ministry official said he was expecting that political and security cooperation were likely to top the agenda of the talks. These include the Cambodian conflict and suppression of the narcotics trade.

The official said cooperation would unlikely be affected in [that] direction since the Thai government had pledged to hold on to the current foreign policy, but admitted that some joint Thai-US programmes initiated under the previous government would be interrupted.

During his last trip to Bangkok in May last year, Solomon held intensive discussions with Chatchai and his advisers on Thai-US cooperation to strengthen open trade in the region. Kraisak Chunhawan, Chatchai's son and then policy adviser, reportedly said that Washington wanted Bangkok to be a key player in persuading the military regime in Rangoon to restore democracy and strengthening economic and political reforms in socialist Indochina.

But for now, the Foreign Ministry official said the political changes in Bangkok would make Thailand more inward-looking and unable to contribute much to dealing with regional issues.

NPKC To Maintain Current Level of U.S. Flights

BK1103050191 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 11 Mar 91 p 17

[Text] US carriers operate 37 flights a week to or from the capital but a Thai delegation, led by the Transport and Communications Ministry's Permanent Secretary at the time, Siphum Sukhanet, threatened to cut these to 27 after the "winter" season ends this month, according to an informed ministry source.

Thailand and the US are trying to negotiate a new air services agreement.

Although the previous government said it wanted closer cooperation and continued talks with US authorities, the threat to cut the number of US flights was raised again by the ministry soon after the National Peace-Keeping Council [NPKC] took power on February 23.

However, the source said the NPKC's decision to allow US carriers to maintain their flights was conveyed last week to Thai aviation authorities led by new Permanent Secretary Mahidon Chantharangkun.

Mr Mahidon was appointed to replace Mr Siphum, who was relieved from his post after the coup.

NPKC chairman Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong's instruction was given to the ministry and aviation officials soon after Gen Sunthon met US Ambassador Daniel O'Donohue.

Mr Mahidon has appointed an Aviation Department deputy director-general to lead Thai delegates to the next round of talks on March 18.

The source said the new administration is giving priority to developing the country's aviation industry. Special attention is expected to be given to the forging of the new air services pact with the US. The previous one lapsed late last year following unresolved conflicts between Thai and US negotiators.

"It was a big relief to all of us in the aviation industry when M.L. Choengchan Khamphu, who was the ministry's former permanent secretary and Thai aviation authority chairman, was named as Transport and Communications Deputy Minister," the source said.

In fact, Thailand's air services agreements flourished and were considered most successful when M.L. Choengchan was leading Thai delegates in negotiations. M.L. Choengchan used his experience and negotiating skills to win a fair share of traffic rights for Thai Airways International, the source said.

Customs Tariff Committee Meets 6 Mar

BK1103074591 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 8 Mar 91 p 26

[Text] The Customs Tariff Committee will decide early next month whether to accept the "double zero" proposal of the United States to lift import duties in nine sectors.

An informed source said yesterday the committee meeting on March 6 agreed in principle with the Commerce Ministry, and instructed a sub-committee to study details so a decision could be made within four weeks.

The source said the US proposed the so-called "double zero" option under the market access negotiations framework of the General Agreement on Tariff and Trade talks, to lift import duties in nine sectors, on a multilateral basis with its trading partners.

The nine sectors were beer products, construction equipment and machinery, eletronic equipment and electrical appliances, fishery products, aluminum products, pulp and paper, rubber products, steel products and wood and furniture.

Under the US proposal, those countries involved would lift import duty on the relevant US products, and the US would reciprocate.

The source sid it was not necessary to accept all of the US package, but Thailand might accept some sectors, which were beneficial to the country, and propose other sectors to the US for consideration.

According to the source, Thailand had to complete a study on the matter to use as a guideline for negotiations with the US and other GATT signatory members under the market access negotiations group, which was resuming talks on March 21.

The source said the Business Economic Department [BED] recommended that the US proposal might help Thailand develop some industries, and complied with a tax restructuring plan by the Government, which wanted to adjust import duties on several products. But it had to ensure local industries would not be affected by the proposal, so the matter had to be considered by related trade associations.

The source said an earlier study by the BED and some trade associations found it was likely some sectors, including fishery products, rubber products, wood and furniture products, would benefit from the double zero option. But other sectors still needed to be protected by import barriers.

Abolishing barriers on some products would help increase Thai exports to the US, while freeing import duties would help local consumers buy some goods at cheap prices.

The source said Thailand might submit a counterproposal to the US, asking it to lift import duties on gems and jewellery products, following a request by the Thai Gems and Jewellery Manufacturers Association.

Vietnam

Bui Tin Expulsion Shows Party's 'Tough Stance'

BK1003113291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1123 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Text] Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, March 10 (AFP)—The recent expulsion of dissident Bui Tin from the Vietnamese Communist Party demonstrates the tough stance adopted by a system faced with growings rifts, Vietnamese sources said here Sunday.

"The case of Bui Tin reveals the tough stance taken by the leadership of the Vietnamese Communist Party as youths and intellectuals pose new demands for more democracy," a Vietnamese intellectual said here Sunday.

Mr. Bui Tin was expelled from the party after criticising of the country's senior leaders from his refuge in France, where he has lived since September.

"In the youth branch of the party, many are becoming critical and demanding more freedom, joining the calls of a number of intellectuals," the source said.

One of the most prominent intellectuals, writer and journalist Nguyen Khac Vien, recently wrote a critique of the government.

At the same time, the postponement of the party congress, from May to June 16, has shown the difficulty in finding a consensus on political and economic platforms. The meeting will reinstall party leaders and define policy for the next five years.

"Many people believe it is vain to want to stay on the sidelines while changes are going on in the communist movement, even if Vietnamese-style socialism is unique," a Vietnamese journalist said.

The changes have swept through many Eastern European countries allied with Vietnam and have been condemned by the Vietnamese Communist Party leadership, which has repeated on several occasions its continued adherence to the socialist path.

The expulsion several months ago of Tran Xuan Bach, a member of the Politburo who said the changes should be taken into account, was seen as a clear warning to others tempted to follow him.

According to a source close to southern political leaders, nearly 20 per cent of party activists have expressed reservations or outright opposition to the proposed resolutions to be put before the congress.

Planning meetings at the local level on the resolutions were not going well, and there is discontentment among some activists, the source said.

Reportage on Rice Supply, Prices, Shortages

Agriculture Ministry Holds Meeting

BK1103103791 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] On 9 March 1991 the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry held a meeting with the Central General Food Company, the Song Hong Food Company, the Hanoi Federated Food Company, and the related sections at the central level to discuss measures to continue pushing up rice selling and to form rice selling agents in order to stabilize the food price in Hanoi.

Entrusted with responsibility by the Central General Food Company, the Song Hong Food Company, after two months, has supplied 3,414 tonnes of rice to 29 units with 54 selling points to sell at a price ranging from 1,800 to 2,100 dong per kg, depending on the rice's quality.

That will help stabilize the rice price in Hanoi market. Besides helping in price stabilization, the opening of more selling agents also helps people buy rice easily and conveniently, and helps agents have more jobs for cadres, workers, and staff.

Through checking, however, some agents found that they have not conformed to regulations from the food sector strictly such as changing prices and changing the type of rice at will, and some agents even sold rice to traders. The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry and the Central General Food Company quickly corrected those shortcomings and also decided to intensify selling rice by the above-mentioned way, especially in the lean preharvest period.

This March the food sector will transport to the north 30,000 tonnes of rice from the south. In April and May it will continue to transport from 30,000 to 50,000 tonnes every month. That will be enough to sell abundantly to consumers.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, at present there are about 2 millions tonnes of paddy in the south. In the north the people have about 300,000 tonnes of paddy. Therefore our food is not in short supply and is enough to meet people's demand.

Food Shortages in Lai Chau

BK1003132891 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Lai Chau Province experienced a shortfall of 24,000 tonnes of grain last year. As a result, to date about 4,000 peasants families in the province have faced hunger. The provincial peasants association is motivating its members to engage in production and to save on grain.

The peasants association in Muong Te, Tuan Giao, and Phong Tho Districts helped local people to plant more than 100 hectares of corn and other short-term subsidiary food crops to help relieve grain shortage during the lean preharvest period.

Meanwhile, the peasants associations of Muong Lay, Dien Bien, Tua Chua have collected millions of dong donated by their members to buy agricultural materials and fertilizer to help poor peasant families promptly engage in production.

Hai Hung Province Food Shortages

BK1003102691 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Some peasant families and civil servants in towns and cities of Hai Hung Province have experienced hunger recently. People in Minh Thanh, Phu Tuyen, Kim Thi, and Chau Giang Districts are in short supply of grain. As a result, Hai Hung is striving to find more sources of grain and food to promptly meet the current demand while making great efforts to control the trade and management of grain to stabilize the market.

The province has also urged the people to plant more subsidiary food crops and to help one another during this difficult situation.

The Provincial Grain Corporation Union and the Hai Duong rice mill have reserved 12,000 tonnes of grain to help relieve the shortage. They are to reserve 15,000 more tonnes, with 4,000-5,000 tonnes a month for sale, to the people at reasonable prices during the lean preharvest period. This is aimed at relieving the grain shortage and stabilizing the market prices.

11 Provinces To Benefit From WFP

BK0903082391 Hanoi VNA in English 0711 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 9—The World Food Programme (WFP) has decided to grant Vietnam a new food aid project No. 3844 which will cover 11 cities and provinces in the country in three years (from April 1991 to April 1994).

This project, worth more than 27 million US dollars to which 3.6 million is contributed by the Vietnamese Government, will support the nutrition of expectant mothers and new-born babies, and help promote the health education of nursing mothers and integrated programmes for the benefit of women and children in general.

In the past years, WFP's food aid project No. 2651 contributed to reducing the rate of low birth weight (below 2,500 grams) from 19.2 per cent to 12 per cent in eight provinces. Nevertheless, the rates of malnutrition among children and anaemia among pregnant women are still high in Vietnam.

VNA Carries To Huu's Lunar New Year Poem

BK0803025491 Hanoi VNA in English 1443 GMT 13 Feb 91

[To Huu's poem: "Hurrah for the Year 2000"; punctuation as received]

[Text] Hanoi VNA February 13—

Is it reality or dream?
Here I am, alive, and writing poems
Hurrah, the year 2000 is coming
At eighty, living amid life-long companions,
Serenity is in my heart,
In spite of winds and storms.
I feel green and fresh as ever
Like a pine
On a rocky mountain top
Faith is the source of inexhaustible strength
What is new [in] the world ?
After ten years of pain and torment
At twenty years of age the suffering century
Is in the throes of child birth
Like a girl being delivered of her first child,
Her cheeks flushed with happiness.
Oh, a new man is coming into the world,
In this most beautiful spring,
People of all skin colours come together in a beautiful glow,
All nations standing firm like steel,
Refusing to be slaves any longer
Refusing to sell themselves to the rich and the opulent
To peddle their souls as vulgar marchandise.
How blissful, each day a festive one,
Above, bombs and shells have fallen silent.
Spaceships one after another make for Mars and Venus.
Trees blossom, promising seasons of sweet fruit.
Winds and clouds carry love melodies
Mankind refer to themselves as "we" standing together,
Man is friend to man.
Together heading for bright horizons.
Leisurely I roam the five continents
Oceans gently rock ships
Bulging with the necessities of life for all
The toilers in the first place.
High above the clouds
Airplanes soar day and night

Carrying none but friends and visitors.
Our motherland, loved by all,
Green in all seasons and bathed in human warmth
Golden beaches beckoning to all friends,
Our house is not spacious but our hearts are wide open.
Our country has enough oil and steel,
Enough food and clothing, schools and hospitals.
Our streets and villages bright with new tiled roofs,
Our gardens filled with honey and the fragrance of flowers
Above all our people have faith in the party,
Their most previous property is a life of purity and brightness.
Oh, how can a wolf sudenly change into a lamb?
A tiger with worn fangs prance about with deer?
A hawk soar merrily beside doves?
A poisonous snake turn as harmless as a worm or cricket?
A crocodide shed real tears of pity?
Has that ever happened? Could there be confusion between good and evil?
Could mankind live peacefully under the same roof?
What magic wand is conducting the band
for all to sing in chorus?
Oh year 2000, in what shape will you appear?
Uncle Ho's appeal to the youth still rings in my ears:
"Nothing is difficult,
Provided we persevere long enough
Even moving mountains and filling oceans
Is possible with unbending resolve."
We have lived and have triumphed.
Let's move forward, let's fly on our own wings,
Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom.
Let's live for ourselves and for others, for to live is also to give.
I'm marching on, on my own steady legs,
Thinking with my own brain and heart.
Hurrah, the 21st century is coming,
Let the morning light illumine the earth

February 3, 1991

To Huu

Grassroots Congresses, Views on Draft Platform

Sao Vang Group Officer on Draft Platform

BK0903071191 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Statement by Lieutenant Colonel Ha Trong Truy, deputy chief political officer of the Sao Vang Infantry Divisional Group, on his views of the party's draft political platform, during the first round of the group's party congress—recorded]

[Text] I would like to express my views on two issues in the draft strategy of socioeconomic stabilization and development of our country until the year 2000: First, the portion in the addendum to the draft platform which clarifies the real socioeconomic situation in our country, and second, on agricultural production in part three covering the investment structure.

In its draft report, the party Central Committee already assessed the real economic situation. Nevertheless, I think the party should assess more thoroughly the real economic situation and the shortcomings of our party and state. In this connection, I suggest that some issues should be mentioned and further clarified.

Although we are advancing to socialism in a poor and backward country that has to overcome a great deal of war consequences, under the party's leadership we have made much effort to restore and develop the economy and build the material bases for socialism, especially following the Sixth Party Congress. The party's renovation process has created premises for the socioeconomic situation in our country to spring up. However, our economy is still underdeveloped. In general, especially in the national economic sectors, labor productivity and efficiency is still low and seriously unbalanced in all respects and not merely heavily unbalanced in many respects as stated in the draft report.

This serious imbalance has led to socioeconomic crises and serious inflation. Production increases slowly and unsteadily. The people, especially tribal people in mountainous regions, suffer privations. Confidence in party leadership and the state's ability to achieve has declined. In assessing the causes thereof, the draft report says that we are the main cause. Saying so is evasively general and the leading role of the party and the state has not been expounded. We should say that the main causes are that our party and state have made serious mistakes and had serious shortcomings such as by asserting some specific lines in some major domains, we have built socialism based on some heavily dogmatic, mechanically duplicative, and voluntaristic patterns that are manifested through the irrational organization of economic investment structures on a large scale and in a widespread manner, hastily doing away with the multisectorial economy. Following the Sixth Party Congress resolution, the renovation process that has been reasserted, started, and led by the party, has moved in the right direction, creating profound changes. Nevertheless, renovation is still slow, especially in the area of economic thinking. From the central down to grassroots levels, all echelons and sectors have realized that renovation is necessary and correct. However, we initially lacked absolute determination in the fields of organization and implementation, causing many difficulties to emerge. Although the shift to the market-oriented mechanism has brought new vitality to the economy, it has restrained the management machinery, especially management cadres, and has not caught up with the changing situation. As a result, there still are many problems and loopholes. Corruption and social evils have developed. Discipline, order, and social justice have not been established. Production remains unstable. The country has not extricated itself from the socioeconomic crisis.

The third section of the second part covers the economic structure. Even though agricultural production is a main characteristic of our country, it is backward, permeated with small-scale production and still heavily autarkic. As a result, it is all the more necessary to correctly assess the role of agricultural production and on this basis to adopt policy measures to accelerate the development of agricultural production. In the draft report, agricultural production problems are dealt with on the same par as other economic sectors. I therefore suggest that the central government must consider agricultural production as the formemost battlefront. Otherwise, any sector or any ministry will request priority for investment from the central government while the state has limited investment capability. As a result, there must be policies and measures to satisfactorily invest in agriculture, considering it a principle of the party and the state for agricultural production. Only by doing so, can agricultural production be vigorously specialized, closely combined with general business, and intensively carried out for extra crops, and the mechanism of contracts in agriculture be perfected. This will warrant the fulfillment of agricultural production projects and plan norms established by our party and state.

Cadres, People View Party Documents

BK1003144091 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Cadres and people in the Long Xuyen rectangle and three islet districts of An Giang Province have contributed many concrete ideas to the draft documents of the Seventh Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Congress. Most of the ideas called for the state to develop agriculture, stabilize the agricultural law and the prices of rice and other agricultural products to protect the interests of peasant. They also suggested that the state should formulate an appropriate policy on wages for people with professional skills, train more local cadres to take on management work, and invest more in long-term production projects to provide more jobs for workers.

Careful Selection of People Urged

BK0903111291 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 8 Mar 91

[From the press review for 8 March]

[Text] On the occasion of the party congresses at various levels, DAI DOAN KET today carries in its "Today's Problems" column an article by Thai Duy entitled: "Choose The Right People To Deposit Your Gold," saying that various provinces and cities are intensively conducting the first and second rounds of party congresses at various levels. This is a very important preparatory step as local delegates will make up a majority of delegates at the Seventh Party Congress. The extent of the congress' success will depend on whether delegates from various provinces and cities are talented and ethical. Deviant party members should not be named as delegates. This is a source of legitimate concern for a large number of people, both inside and outside the party, for the party is a ruling vanguard political organization. Whether the party is strong or weak, close to or aloof from the people, clean or deviant will have a direct impact on various aspects of our people's lives.

Ho Chi Minh City Prepares for Congress

BK1003142591 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] The Ho Chi Minh City party committee is directing the party grassroots organizations to finish contributing their opinions to the draft political report at the Seventh Party Congress and to organize the first round of the congress at the party organizations.

Having the experience of organizing to gather opinions for previous documents, this time, apart from organizing so that party members could study and provide opinions at the primary party organizations and party organizations, the city party committee also organized so that members at working groups such as writers, artists, teachers at universities, social and scientific intellectuals, and retired revolutionary cadres could study and provide representative opinions for their groups.

The city party committee also organized so that more than 500 leading cadres of party organizations could understand some basic issues extracted from real and practical studies and discussions of previous documents.

The grass roots organizations are urgently preparing for the first round of the congress at all levels. The city party committee has chosen five pilot units to gain experience. These units organized the congresses satisfactorily, and completely compiled all the opinions discussed by party members with sound theory and analysis.

At the congresses, the organizations also extracted common and characteristic issues that were given attention and discussed by members.

The election to choose representatives to attend the first round of the congress at a higher level in five pilot units was carried out in conformity with the democratic rules and lived up to standards on quality and structure. However, the first congresses of the five pilot units still showed some weaknesses such as some units could not combine their own issues with political duty while others extracted too many issues and some issues were too complicated and outside the scope of their organization.

Hoang Lien Son Grassroots Congresses

BK0903094591 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 8 Mar 91

[From the press review for 8 March]

[Text] An article by Nguyen Anh Binh in NHAN DAN which deals with grass-roots party congresses in Hoang Lien Son province, reads in part as follows:

Hoang Lien Son is holding grassroots party congresses in various districts, towns, and other subordinate units. In the first week of March, it held an experimental party congress in the pilot district of Yen Binh. The direct impact of such grass-roots party congresses has led to positive changes in this northern border province. These grassroots party congresses were generally designed to contribute views on various draft documents of the party central committee. Based on the actual situation in the localities concerned, these congresses provided a general assessment of various issues, taking into account the realities and characteristics of the mountain region. It is interesting to note that the term 'Congress of Conference' is not a slogan created by any party committee echelons but rather a name given to their village party congress by the people of Yen Binh village, Yen Binh District.

All these serve as a good example for other establishments in the province. It is essential for grass-roots party organizations to meet the legitimate aspirations of the local multi-ethnic compatriots, to solve once and for all clearly-verified irregularities among party cadres, and to effect a concrete change for the better economically and socially.

Dong Anh District Party Congresses

BK0903095491 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 8 Mar 91

[From the press review for 8 March]

[Text] It is reported by HANOI MOI that the first round of the 23d congress of Dong Anh District party organization delegates was held from 5-7 March.

Over the past three months the Dong Anh District party committee has guided its 93 party organizations in holding their party congresses in preparation for the first round of the party congress. [as heard] Some 80 party members or more have contributed their views on the party's five draft documents.

At the above first round of the congress, those attending again discussed and gave many practical ideas. They showed a high sense of responsibility toward the party and expressed their desire to contribute to the success of the Seventh Party Congress.

Quan Tien Phong Division Party Congress

BK1003094991 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] Comrade Quang Dao reported that on 6 March 1991, the Quan Tien Phong Division opened the first round of the division party congress to contribute opinions to the Seventh Party Congress' documents and to elect representatives to attend higher level party congresses. Nearly 100 representatives who were outstanding party members elected from grassroots organizations congresses attended the congress.

The congress was at a level above the grass roots organizations and it was held for the first time in a main force division. The division party congress confirmed that organizing for the party congress was the first important political duty. It not only contributed to the Seventh Party Congress' achievement but also provided a chance for the party cadres to improve their political knowledge. Therefore, the preparatory work for the congress was conducted positively, urgently, and thoroughly especially in the field of preparing material, compiling opinions, and discussing leadership.

With enthusiasm, confidence, and a high spirit of responsibility the congress encouraged discussion and good contributions of opinions to the seventh party congress documents, especially on national defense and security duties in undertaking the construction and protection of the Vietnam socialist fatherland. It also displayed a great spirit of unity, democracy, and cooperation.

On this occasion, the Quan Tien Phong Division motivated the unanticipated emulation movement to score the highest achievements to welcome the division party congress and the Seventh Party Congress with the targets of intensifying discipline and preparing well to move to the first stage of the 1991 training work on time with good results right from the outset.

Ha Tuyen Contributes Ideas to Documents

BK1003153391 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Party committees of 16 districts and cities of Ha Tuyen Province met recently to contribute ideas to the draft political report of the upcoming Seventh Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Congress and the draft document on revising the party regulations.

Many ideas focused on the pressing problems of the province which include measures to accelerate afforestation, promote forest preservation, build more roads and bridges; oppose drug addiction, gambling, superstition, and illiteracy; and eliminate the prevailing malaria and goiter.

Many ideas suggested that the party document should include a chapter dealing with the mountain regions and policy toward cadres working in these areas. They also called for training courses for ethnic minority cadres to help them to be able to carry out assigned tasks.

Nghe Tinh Holds Party Meeting

BK1003121491 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Nghe Tinh recently held an enlarged provincial party committee meeting to learn about the political report draft at the Seventh Party Congress.

At the same time, Nghe Tinh also reviewed the first step to party purification as mentioned in Directive 240 of the Council of Ministers. This is to discuss and provide opinions to the province's resolution on targets and duties of the 1991 socioeconomic development plan.

Party-State Leaders Decorated at Press Ceremony

BK0803095791 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Summary] The Vietnam Journalists' Association held a solemn ceremony this afternoon in Hanoi Press Center to award the "For Vietnam Press Cause" medals to party Central Committee General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh, advisor Pham Van Dong to the party Central Committee and General Vo Nguyen Giap, party Central Committee member and vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers.

"Attending this solemn ceremony were Nguyen Thanh Binh, party Central Committee Politburo Member and Secretary, Tran Trong Tam, Head of the party Central Committee Department of Ideology and Culture; and representatives of the party central committee office, the council of ministers, Vietnam Fatherland Front, mass organizations at the central level and in Hanoi, literature and arts associations and local press chapters. Advisor Pham Van Dong to the party central committee and General Vo Nguyen Giap, who were away on temporary duty, could not attend the ceremony."

On behalf of the Vietnam Journalists' Association, Comrade Phan Quang, its general secretary, delivered a speech.

[Begin Phan Quang recording] "Respected and beloved Party Central Committee General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh, dear Comrade Nguyen Thanh Binh, party Central Committee Politburo member and secretary; and dear comrade leaders, veteran journalists, comrades and colleagues, in order to remember the merits of veteran journalists who have made many contributions to the cause of Vietnamese press, on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of national day and 65th anniversary of the first issue of THANH NIEN publication established by Comrade Nguyen Ai Quoc and as requested by large numbers of journalists of several generations, the fifth executive committee of Vietnam Journalists' Association decided in March 1990 to award 'For Vietnam Press Cause' medals to its members with 20 years of activities in the press circles and to some non- members who have rendered specially meritorious services to the country's press."

"Today, our association has the honor to award the medals to Comrade Party General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh, Comrade Advisor to the Party Central Committee Pham Van Dong and General Vo Nguyen Giap, Party Central Committee Member and vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers, our party and state leaders and outstanding students of great journalist Ho Chi Minh." [end recording]

Comrade Phan Quang then recalled the meritorious and revolutionary achievements of Comrades Nguyen Van Linh, Pham Van Dong and Vo Nguyen Giap over the past years and respectfully conferred the medals on Comrade Nguyen Van Linh.

Addressing the participants in the ceremony, Comrade Nguyen Van Linh emotionally said:

[Begin Linh recording] "Dear comrades, it is a pleasant surprise and honor for me to receive the 'For Vietnam Press Cause' medal today. First of all, I thank all of you." [end recording]

The general secretary then stressed the duties of the revolutionary Vietnam press during the period of clandestine operations and in the current renovation process.

[Begin Linh recording] "Now, under our administration, our press is not only the voice of the party and the state to disseminate broadly the various lines and policies for implementation by the people but also a forum for the masses to reflect their aspirations and views regarding the country's fate. Since renovation began, our press has disseminated the party's policies of comprehensive renovation and the fundamental resolutions among the masses. The press is further a means to call on the masses to fight against the ills of red tape and negativism within the very ranks of the party and the state agencies. Moreover, under our renovation policy, the press must regularly create renovation models to bring about practical results in all the economic, social, security, national defense and other domains. So, the role of the press is very important, and you all, namely NHAN DAN, QUAN DOI NHAN DAN, HANOI MOI, SAIGON GIAI PHONG, TUOI TRE and many others together with other media such as the radio and television stations have also been creative in your work. I take this opportunity to commend all of you. I earnestly propose that in the ideological domain you must struggle to make all party members and the people of all strata realize well that our direction is to persistently follow the socialist line and correctly build socialism in conformity with the realistic situation in Vietnam and you must act in such a way as to frustrate the hope of reactionaries overseas as well as at home to wipe out socialism and reject Marxism-Leninism. Even a few party members, particularly among intellectuals, have manifested such a tendency and have unknowingly lent a hand to those who want to undermine our ideology and to topple our party and overthrow our socialist regime. The ideological struggle is very important. The role of the press in this struggle is particularly pressing in the current situation. Along with popularizing renovation models in all domains, you must carry articles to fight the abovementioned tendency. Finally, I am convinced that you will discharge your duty well and I earnestly hope that you will effectively join this ideological struggle. I cordially send my greetings to you all." [applause] [end recording]

On behalf of the contingent of Vietnamese press workers, Comrade Phan Quang pledged to the general secretary that the revolutionary Vietnam Press would continue to take the lead together with all party members and the people in successfully building socialism in our country.

Leaders Attend Anniversary Meeting

BK1003142991 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] On the occasion of the 40th founding anniversary of the paper NHAN DAN, a get-together of veteran correspondents, editors, and cadres was held at its office in Hanoi on 9 March.

Attending the function were retired correspondents and editors and those who have switched to other fields, current correspondents, and Comrade Buaban, editor in chief of the Lao paper PASASON, the mouthpiece of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party.

In the atmosphere of friendship and sincerity, Comrades Le Quang Dao, To Huu, Tran Quang Huy, and Ha Xuan Truong and other comrades who wrote for various revolutionary newspapers in the past such as THANH NIEN [Youth] and GIAI PHONG [Liberation] recalled many good memories and hardships experienced by journalists and editors in issuing and distributing copies to the people during the resistance war against French colonialism.

These comrades also presented their experiences as journalists and expressed the hope that in the present renovation cause, Vietnamese journalists will try to uphold the tradition of the former revolutionary newspapers, strive to study more to improve their writing skills, and promptly present news and information on activities of the renovation cause.

At the get-together, these comrades felt moved when they talked about Uncle Ho and Comrade Truong Chinh who were capable leaders and outstanding writers and who gained vast experiences in leading, guiding, and running a newspaper. Their experiences are, indeed, good lessons for Vietnamese journalists in this generation and the next.

Lao, Cambodian Press Attend Anniversay

BK1003154091 Hanoi VNA in English 1454 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 10—Nguyen Thanh Binh, Politburo member and secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) Central Committee, received here yesterday afternoon the visiting delegations of the Lao and Cambodian party papers, PASASON and PRACHEACHON. The Lao delegation, headed by Bouban Volakhun, editor-in-chief of PASASON, and the Cambodian delegation, On Dau Tieng, deputy editor-in-chief of PRACHEACHON, have been in Vietnam for the celebrations of the 40th founding anniversary of the Vietnamese party NHAN DAN (March 11).

Nguyen Thanh Binh highly valued the cooperation among the three papers, regarding it as a vivid demonstration of the special solidarity and close relations among the peoples and parties of the three countries. He took this opportunity to inform the guests of Vietnam's preparation for the forthcoming 7th national congress of the CPV.

Mai Chi Tho Attends Border Defense Meeting

BK0803125591 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] On 5, 6, and 7 of March 1991, the command unit of the border armed forces held the 1991 meeting on border defense commanding to review the border defense work in 1990, to explain the essential contents of the 46th National Security Security Force Conference, and to implement the 1991 orders on border defense work.

Comrade Senior General Mai Chi Tho, member of the party Political Bureau, secretary of the Security Forces' Party Central Committee, and minister of the interior attended and addressed the meeting.

Tran Duc Luong at International Housing Seminar

BK0803095091 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] On 6 March, an international seminar on housing development opened in Hanoi. More than 20 representatives of international organizations and nearly 50 representatives of central offices, localities, and Hanoi City attended the seminar.

Speaking at the seminar, Comrade Tran Duc Luong, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers said that it was the first international seminar on housing held in Hanoi. Housing in cities and particularly in the capital has been given special attention and proper investment by the party and the state to contribute to building and improving the city, making it more beautiful, magnificent, and deserved as the nation's capital.

After that, Comrade Ngo Xuan Loc, minister of construction, and David Smith, representative of UNDP [United Nations Development Program] and ESCAP [Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific] in Hanoi stated their opinions and suggested the necessary works, policies, laws, and regulations on housing to strongly develop the formation of state and people jointly taking in house construction. On the other hand, it is necessary to have practical policies to save land, and at the same time construction must have united plan to guarantee the housing development following the modern direction.

The international seminar on housing development in Hanoi continued to work until the end of 8 March.

With the position and importance of this seminar, we hope that Hanoi City will extract some experience and precious lessons on housing construction and city development.

Women of Foreign Embassies Visit Haiphong

BK0803105091 Hanoi VNA in English 0705 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 8—On the International Women's Day (March 8), ambassadresses, and women representatives of embassies and international organizations in Hanoi paid a visit to Haiphong port city.

Mrs. Tran Thi Ngoc, president of the Haiphong Women's Union, informed the guests of the activities of the women in the city, particularly the vocational training centre for women in the city. The centre has been provided with more equipment with financial assistance from the UN High Commissioners for Refugees, the Hilfsaktion Vietnam (HAV) of Germany, and the British Embassy in Vietnam. The guests also visited women workers at the tapestry enterprise in the city and the rest house for women on Do Son beach.

Ausralasia

Blewett Urges U.S. Not To Hurt Trade

BK0903110491 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 9 Mar 91

[From the "International Report" program]

[Text] The prospect of a long-term American presence in the Middle East has heightened fears of a further erosion of Australian trade. In the trade war between the United States and the European Community, Australian farmers have already found themselves undercut in traditional markets such as Egypt by sales of highly subsidized American wheat. The trade negotiations minister, Neil Blewett, is currently leading a bipartisan trade delegation to Washington.

[Begin recording] [Blewett] We would hope they would not use the subsidies at all, but I think we better resign ourselves that in this trade war period subsidies are likely to be used. But we would hope they will be targeted against countries they are intended to target, that is, the countries of the European Community, and that is in the whole range of markets in which the European Community is a major supplier, rather than in those areas such as the Middle East where we are a chief supplier—that is, a free trade, efficient farm producer, rather than as Europeans are, equally heavily subsidized producers.

So what we are saying to Americans is: Right, if you won't at this stage move away from your export enhancement program, from your subsidy program, at least give us the consideration of not targeting markets in which Australians or possibly Canadians have played a major role. [end recording]

Reforms To Slash Protection, Give Incentives

BK1103065691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0635 GMT 11 Mar 91

[By Jack Taylor]

[Text] Sydney, March 11 (AFP)—Labor Prime Minister Bob Hawke will present to parliament Tuesday a package of reforms slashing industry protection, providing new business incentives and, very likely, alienating much of Labor's traditional support.

Its reduced tariffs and new incentives aim to make manufacturing industry more efficient and competitive, but in so doing may present new export opportunities especially to countries like Japan, South Korea and Taiwan.

Unions fear it will cost jobs and environmental groups have already declared war, charging the government with forsaking environmental concern for the timber industry.

It is a gamble summed up by one leading commentator as "Hawke's last hand" and is the long awaited prescription for reviving both a sick economy and the government's own severely depleted electoral prospects.

One key minister, Social Security Minister Graham Richardson, reportedly expressed misgivings about it in cabinet, questioning "the politics of a document that will cause a loss of jobs among the workers and tear up promises we have made to the greenies."

Another, Industry and Commerce Minister John Button, partly answered the question saying in a televised interview Sunday: "There will not, in my view, if we get it right, be loss of jobs for workers."

Mr. Button described it as a plan to rebuild industry through the 1990's rather than "a magic wand" to end the recession now.

Although Mr. Hawke was still finalising details in meetings to soothe his left wing Monday, essential elements are known.

Tariffs protecting the car industry are to be cut from 35 to 15 per cent over seven years from 1993, while general industry protection levels of 15 and 10 per cent will be reduced to five per cent by 1997.

In the most heavily protected sector, textiles, clothing and footwear—which has given Australia some of the world's dearest shoes—export incentives will be introduced as tariffs are reduced more rapidly.

Existing sales taxes will be removed from manufacturing components and new depreciation allowances will encourage the replacement of obsolescent plant.

Mr. Hawke was still under pressure Monday to remove the most contentious element—his "resource security legislation" guaranteeing the forestry industry access to timber and paving the way for a new pulp mill.

Apart from the creation of what the government hopes will be a new legislative and taxation framework in which industry can flourish, Mr. Hawke wants his statement to achieve another objective.

It must restore business confidence shattered by prolonged tight monetary policy leading to record bankruptcies and what Treasurer Paul Keating described as "the recession Australia had to have."

Analysts say the credit built by the government through early initiatives like deregulation of the financial sector, floating the currency and creating a healthier climate in some sectors of industry has been lost in the last two years.

The resource security legislation is aimed partly at bridging the credibility gap by demonstrating government concern for industry. But the business community wants much more.

It has made clear through numerous representative bodies what it wants most is urgent reform of what have been judged by numerous inquiries to be still desperately inefficient industries like road transport, shipping and wharves.

But few expect to get it because of the continuing influence of the unions and other pressure groups.

Response to Saddam Reflects New World Order

BK0903074791 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] The prime minister says the international response to Saddam Husayn reflected a new world order of community of interests between nations. Mr. Hawke was speaking today at the opening at Sydney of the Socialist International Party Leaders Conference, being attended by representatives of about 40 countries.

Mr. Hawke said that the most striking feature of the response to the Gulf war was the way in which nations from every continent and with every shade of opinion recognized the interest they shared in opposing Iraqi aggression.

[Begin Hawke recording] All the responsible members of the United Nations, the members of the Security Council under the two superpowers, reflected their shared interests in the peaceful world order. Those shared interests reflected in turn, certain shared values, national self-determination, national sovereignty, and the rule of law over the rule of force. [end recording]

Mr. Hawke also told the conference that the changes in Eastern Europe were an indication of all peoples who espoused the ideals of democratic socialism.

Foreign Minister Backs UN Plan for Cambodia

BK0803132591 Hong Kong AFP in English 0811 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Canberra, March 8 (AFP)—Elections which the Vietnamese-backed government proposes to hold in Cambodia are "an attractive option" but cannot remove the root cause of the tragedy, Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said here.

Answering questions in parliament Thursday, Mr. Evans said that a comprehensive peace plan involving the United Nations was the only means of persuading China to stop backing the Khmer Rouge guerrillas who are fighting the government in Phnom Penh.

Australia would "keep pressing forward for the comprehensive settlement," Mr. Evans said, although it was "an achingly, frustratingly slow business."

A senior Foreign Ministry official, Michael Costello, would visit Hanoi and Phnom Penh "within the next few days to engage further in discussions," Mr. Evans said.

Ministry officials Friday said that Mr. Costello expected to travel to Phnom Penh on March 16, going on to Hanoi.

Mr. Costello returned to Canberra overnight from Jakarta, where he conferred Thursday with Indonesia's Foreign Minister Ali Alatas.

Indonesia and France are co-chairmen of the International Conference on Cambodia which met in Paris in August 1989.

Mr. Evans said that Australia was "still talking very directly to China" and that he had spoken to "several recent high level visitors." He did not elaborate.

But he said that "there are no new particular initiatives" and that Australia's aim was "to keep the attention of the major players engaged," adding that they had been distracted by the Gulf war.

Mr. Evans said that he believed that demobilisation and disarmament of the belligerents in Cambodia under the U.N. plan was the only "substantive" issue dividing the parties.

Asked whether Australia objected to the Phnom Penh Government's plan to hold elections in Cambodia next year, he replied:

"We of course have no objection in principle to the Hun Sen administration conducting any election and thereby conferring some additional degree of legitimacy presumably on the government so elected."

But Mr. Evans went on, "The Khmer Rouge will not be prepared, I believe, to foreswear the military option simply because the Phnom Penh Government conducts some kind of internal election."

AFP—Australian Army Officer Shot Dead

BK1003050091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0452 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Text] Port Moresby, March 10 (AFP)—Gregory Dowsett, an Australian Army officer on a cooperation programme with the Papua New Guinea defence force, was shot dead outside his home here Sunday, Australian High Commission officials said.

Warrant Officer Dowsett, 42, who had been in Papua New Guinea for two years, was shot as he returned home in the small hours.

Officials said police were investigating the murder, which might have been the work of notorious criminal thugs known here as raskals.

Western Samoa

Opposition Promises Anti-Corruption Tribunal

BK1003065691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0532 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Text] Apia, March 9 (AFP)—The opposition Samoa National Development Party (SNDP) promised Saturday that if it wins next month's elections it would establish an independent anti-corruption tribunal.

The pledge to set up the tribunal to monitor "the integrity of politicians, bureaucrats and political appointees" was part of a 17-point manifesto released at a rally here led by SNDP Leader Tupua Tamasese Efi.

Western Samoa will go to the polls on April 5 in the first elections conducted under universal suffrage rules. Previously only family heads known as Matai could vote.

Tupua Tamasese did not specify how an anti-corruption tribunal would work but called for honesty in government.

The manifesto said, "SNDP has contempt for the corrupt practices and nepotism currently displayed in the awarding of government contracts, leases and the sale of (government corporation) land."

The opposition wants more investigative powers for the government auditor and the parliamentary public accounts committee.

A new law reform committee would review legislation "and the administration of justice...to impose justice and fairness," the manifesto pledged.

The SNDP would also try to regain the confidence of the Nauru government, it said.

Phosphate-rich Nauru had been a major investor in Samoa and was on the verge of starting a hotel project in 1988 when a government cabinet minister accused Nauru of bankrolling the SNDP.